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Christian Democrats Condemn Noriega, Castro

PL/Dispatch/009 Panama City, 10-17-89 (Special)
1817 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Sep (AM/AN/EEA)--The Christian Democrats International Congress held in Guatemala has condemned drug trafficking terrorism General Manuel Antonio Noriega and the Cuban Government of Fidel Castro. It stated its support for the Central American peace process.

In their final resolution, Christian Democrats Party delegates from 54 countries also asked General Augusto Pinochet of Chile to pave the road to democracy and not become a "frustrating personal dictatorship" to a definite reconciliation among Chileans.

The final resolution was approved after 5 days of meetings during which the delegates analyzed the problems of international drug trafficking, the foreign debt, peace and democracy, among other issues. The congress concluded yesterday.

The document states: "Drug trafficking, as well as other grave political, social and economic problems besetting Latin America, cannot be treated as an isolated problem. They must be treated in the framework of North-South relations. Until now they have been viewed only in the context of the East-West confrontation."

In their resolution, the delegates "condemn" Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega "for having fraudulently altered election results and for letting paramilitary bands attack the people, including the low opposition leaders."

The Panamanian Electoral Tribunal decided to annul Gen. Noriega's elections, arguing that there were election-related irregularities. The opposition claims it won the elections. Following the annulment, the OAS sent a mission to Panama, comprised of Latin American foreign ministers, "to promote an agreement" in that country.

The Christian Democrats International "deplores" the OAS failure to play a "more determining role in defense of the Panamanian people," and urges member countries to initiate, as soon as possible, "multilateral actions to put an end to the Noriega regime."

In the resolution, the organization also condemns the government of Fidel Castro of Cuba for its "violations of human rights" and demands the release of Jose Luis Martí Becerra and Carlos Novoa, president and vice president of the Cuban Christian Democrats, Communistes, respectively. The resolution demands also the release of all the other "political prisoners" in Cuba.

The organization asks the members of the United Nations to introduce and pass a resolution at the next meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission so that it designates a special delegate to investigate and report on such violations in Cuba.

Concerning the peace process in Central America, the congress announced its "satisfaction" with the progress made in the Toluca (Honduras) presidential summit held from 7 to 11 August. The congress also reiterated its support for the creation of a Central American parliament and other political bodies that have the objective of resolving area problems by means of dialogue.

The final congress stated its support for the Christian Democratic Party of Chile in its struggle to win the presidential and parliamentary elections to take place on 14 December.

The document also states that the international community must demand that Gen. Augusto Pinochet pave the road to democracy and not become a "frustrating personal dictatorship" to a definite reconciliation among Chileans.

The delegates to the congress expressed their solidarity with the social and economic changes present being promoted by the Uruguayan Christian Democratic Party in its search for a more just, humane, and united society.

Cuba

Party Secretary Denounces U.S. TV Aggression

FL 22090/22000 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Excerpt] In Berlin Jose Ramon Balaguer, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, has protested against the television aggression plan that is currently being prepared against our country by the U.S. Administration.

In a speech made during a meeting of ideology secretaries of Communist and Labor parties from Socialist countries, Balaguer said that with that action Washington challenges and flagrantly violates telecommunications and it also attempts to violate Cuban sovereignty. He added that Cuba will fight against the execution of that subversive project.

The regular meeting of ideology secretaries of central committees of the three parties will conclude today after 2 days of work in the capital of the GDR. [passage omitted]

Rodriguez Meets With Socialist Labor Leaders

FL 22090/22000 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 0102 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received the heads of the delegations that are attending the meeting for state labor organization leaders from socialist countries.

The Cuban vice president expressed our country's satisfaction at being elected site of the first meeting of this kind held outside the CEMA area. He also stressed the importance of the meeting which makes it possible to exchange expertise on the common objectives of all socialist countries, the transformation of society and improved living conditions.

During his meeting with the heads of state labor organizations of socialist countries, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez briefed them on the current situation of the Cuban economy and he spoke at length on the new aggression characterized by the beginning of broadcasts by the anti-Cuban television station.

Raul Castro Receives Guyana's Prime Minister

FL 22091/20000 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] The prime minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Hamilton Green, arrived in our capital early this morning. The visitor was greeted at the airport by Army General Raul Castro, first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, who is also a vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers. The prime minister was also welcomed by the

Guyanese ambassador to Cuba, Harold Sakadeni, as well as by ministers and officials of our party.

Hamilton Green, who has been head of state for 4 years, is also the first vice president of the Caribbean nation and a deputy leader of the ruling People's National Congress party. He is also in charge of the portfolio for Sports, Housing, and Public Health.

The visit, which is being called a working, friendly, and official visit, will include meetings with Cuban officials from various sectors, as well as tours of centers for health, construction, sports industry, and education. The Guyanese official will also tour the most Caribbean of our cities, Santiago de Cuba.

Cuba and Guyana established diplomatic relations in December 1977. Since that time, the two have developed on a basis of friendship and of mutual benefit. Cooperation between the two countries includes, not only economy, but also health, sports, culture, and education. This visit will further strengthen the ties of friendship between the two countries.

During a brief conversation held at the airport, Army General Raul Castro expressed his interest in the effects caused by Hurricane Hugo when it recently passed by the Lesser Antilles. The guest spoke about the aid provided by Guyana to the small island of Montserrat.

Green on 'Semi-Official Visit'

FL 22092/22000 Georgetown C. A. N. 1 in English
2136 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Sept 22. C.A.N.—Guyana's Prime Minister, Hamilton Green, left here for Cuba Thursday on what a spokesman for his office called a "semi-official visit."

The announcement of the trip, on state radio, has raised speculation here that the prime minister might be seeking medical attention while in Cuba.

Green, the number two man in the government, will meet with Cuban President Fidel Castro to discuss Guyana-Cuba relations. He is also expected to discuss with the Cubans matters such as Cuba's assistance for Guyana's medical school, set up at the University of Guyana with Cuban assistance, and an arrangement for Cuban boxing coaches and a Cuban sports doctor to help with the preparation of Guyanese athletes.

The report said Green is likely to be away for nearly two weeks.

Official Meets With Rio de Janeiro Governor

FL 22092/24000 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 2126 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Report by Mario Aguiar Lacompas from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on "Exclusivo" program—live]

[Text] After spending 4 days here in Rio de Janeiro, Orlando Fundora, member of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples, has departed for Buenos Aires. Fundora, who is also a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, was received by the governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Moreira Franco.

After his meeting at the (Guantanamo) Palace, site of the cabinet and of Moreira Franco's office, Fundora told journalists that Brazil is going through a very special time with the upcoming elections for president of the Republic. He added that the country is definitely ending the imperial period and ("beginning the period) of democracy. Society, Fundora said, is thus creating new possibilities.

The former director of the PRENSA LATINA press agency and Governor Moreira Franco were accompanied by representatives from the Brazilian Press Association.

190 Internationalists Return From Angola

FL220P/212089 Havana Radio-Relay Network
in Spanish 1953 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Melba Hernandez, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and director of the Asia and Oceania Studies Center, this morning welcomed more than 190 internationalist combatants upon their return from the People's Republic of Angola.

After successfully fulfilling their mission in the brother African nation, all members of this group, presided over by First Lieutenant Fran Lujan, wear the Cuba-Angola Victory Medal on their uniforms. 102 combatants wear the Internationalist Medal, First Class; 92 wear the same medal, second class; 57 wear the Defense of Cuito Cuanavale Medal; and 40 wear the Distinguished Service Medal.

Brigade Generals (Juan Pablo Alvarez) and (Ezequiel Carretero) were also present at the Jose Marti International Airport to greet the internationalists upon their arrival.

More on Return

FL220P/20089 Havana Radio-Relay Network
in Spanish 1108 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Our young Cuban internationalist combatants showed in Angola their ability and responsibility in the difficult missions against the enemy. This was said in Radio Relay by Major Alejandro Solana who headed the contingent of over 130 comrades who have just returned to the fatherland. He added that the morale and principles of the combatants who are still in the African nation are very high.

Rosa Elena Somoza, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba, Central Committee Politburo, and Commander of the Revolution [title as heard] Guillermo Garcia Frías, along with other leaders, welcomed our dear troops upon their arrival at Havana airport.

The recently arrived combatants wear on their uniforms the Cuba-Angola Victory Medal; 80 wear the Internationalist Combatant Medal, first class; 49 wear the second class medal; 57 wear the Cuito Cuanavale Medal; and 30 wear the Distinguished Service Medal.

Protocol Signed With Turkish Radio, TV

FL20000/500 Havana Television Service
in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] A cooperation protocol in the information field was signed this afternoon by the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television, ICRV, and the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation.

The document was signed by (Karim Ilhan Herden) general director of the Turkish organization, and Ismael Gonzalez, president of the ICRV. This is the first agreement signed by a Cuban institution with the Republic of Turkey. It includes the commercialization and exchange of cultural programs and the participation of representatives from both countries in radio and television contents, festivals, and other media-related activities.

Caribbean Affairs

Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting Ends

FL220P/184899 Bridgetown C. ENCL in English
1146 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Sept 22. CIANA. The annual meeting of Commonwealth finance ministers has ended in Jamaica with Commonwealth Secretary General Shridath Ramphal calling for new approaches and new examinations of the problems affecting developing countries.

The finance ministers also approved the establishment of a commonwealth equity fund which would facilitate the flow of private institutional equity investment to emerging securities markets in commonwealth developing countries.

The fund which should be in place early next year will also seek out potential investment opportunities in small and low income countries and would be operated on a commercial basis.

The Secretariat will play a catalytic role and does not offer any guarantees or assurances of the fund's performance or operations.

The two-day meeting which ended here Thursday dealt mainly with the debt problem, the world economic situation and its impact on the economic prospects for developing countries, the impact of structural adjustment programs, and International Monetary Fund/World Bank related issues.

The communique issued at the end of the meeting expressed concern and anxiety that in many respects the changes in the world economy were impacting negatively on the economic prospects of developing countries.

The underlying theme of the communiqué was that the international community was going to have to analyze "scrupulously" the problems faced by developing countries and come up with new solutions. The debt problem dominated much of the discussions at the meeting, with finance ministers welcoming debt rescheduling offered by the Paris Club. There were concerns expressed, however, that these initiatives were not sufficient to assist indebted nations. The problem faced by countries whose debt was owed mainly to official creditors, but which were shut out of existing debt reduction programs, was also highlighted at the meeting.

On trade, the finance ministers welcomed the League Round's mid-term review. They emphasized the need for increased opportunities for export and called for the dismantling of discriminatory trade barriers against developing countries.

IMF and World Bank issues were discussed in detail and concern was expressed about the overlapping functions of the two institutions. The finance ministers stressed that the fund must have adequate resources to meet its expanding role. They also agreed that the world review must provide an incentive in quotas to meet the substantial needs of member countries in the 1990s. The finance ministers renewed their call to the World Bank to develop specific policy programs to deal with the social costs of structural adjustment and "poverty alleviation."

In their discussions on the environment, the ministers noted that in assessing the level of concessional assistance industrial countries and international financial institutions would need to take account of any additional burden on developing countries of the need to protect the environment.

The finance ministers adopted the report on women and structural adjustment which is to be presented at the commonwealth heads of government conference to be held next month in Malaysia.

The finance ministers are expected to raise concerns about structural adjustment policies, the debt problem and IMF/World Bank issues at next week's annual meeting of the fund and bank in Washington.

The ministers representing 48 commonwealth countries agreed that donor countries should consider extending last year's three-point debt relief plan for 11 Sub-Saharan countries to other poor countries outside that region, as well as additional mechanisms to help the growth potential of these debtors.

The Sub-Saharan plan, promoted by British Chancellor Nigel Lawson, encourages interest relief, some debt principal reduction and longer repayment maturities and is due to cover about three billion dollars in debt.

The communiqué, which commonwealth secretaries officially said was endorsed by Britain, describes the Sub-Saharan initiative as having "so far provided modest relief for a limited number of countries."

Disaster Unit Formed for Aid Coordination

EEJ 2/99/25800 *Bridgetown, Barbados, World Radio*
in English 11:00 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] The new Caricom [Caribbean Community] disaster unit based on Antigua has been formed to coordinate the regional response to the disaster in St. John's, Montserrat, and St. Kitts and Nevis. The Antigua unit has been receiving requests of needs and making plans for the distribution of assistance.

Victims Praise Caricom Relief

EEJ 2/99/25800 *Bridgetown, Barbados, World Radio*
in English 11:00 GMT 22 Sep 89

[B. Hattie Hope]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Sept. 22, 1989—The Caribbean Community's [Caricom] response to Hurricane Hugo's destructive sweep through the northern Caribbean was praised Friday by government representatives as relief work continued apace in Montserrat, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Dominica.

Caricom personnel such as soldiers, policemen, doctors and engineers, and flows of supplies supported by regional and international agencies and countries, have been arriving on the islands to help restore communication and transportation services and assist with shelter for thousands of homeless.

Ruben Meade, a Montserrat planning executive involved in relief coordination said here today: "The Caricom response has been tremendous, it has been overwhelming."

Meade told a planning meeting of international and regional aid donors that roads had been cleared, the island was well equipped with doctors and medical supplies through the relief effort, and water and electricity were being restored in some areas. The food situation was also reported to be stable, with food being used from supermarkets which were stocked prior to Hugo's assault on the islands Sunday.

"Emotionally, physically, we are ok," the government's director of development said.

More than 95 per cent of the 3,000 homes on Montserrat, a tiny British dependency of 12,000 people, have been damaged and the vital city of Plymouth washed away.

Meade said that contrary to some reports, there had been four deaths from the hurricane and injuries were few.

Antigua and Barbuda today reported that it would take about six weeks to return to a state of normality. Hundreds of electricity poles have been uprooted, requiring both new wiring and poles being set up. Pipe-borne water was expected to be returned to St. John's, the capital, and its immediate surrounding areas by this evening.

In a statement sent to CANA today, Government Minister Christopher C'Marde said, "We have made contact with donor agencies and friendly governments and are quite satisfied with the level of assistance offered."

"Indeed, we are overwhelmed by the spirit of brotherhood which has poured forth from fellow Caribbean islands not affected by the hurricane and are satisfied that with this spirit prevailing, Antigua and, indeed, the northern Caribbean will overcome the threat posed to their economic livelihood."

Meanwhile, Caribbean countries are involved in a major relief effort for Montserrat. The island was one of those hard hit by Hugo. The government estimated that more than 90 per cent of the structures were destroyed, along with most fruit trees.

British Virgin Islands

Government Declares State of Emergency

*FL 2209/20000 Bridgetown CANA in English
1713 GMT 22 Sep 89*

[By Erasmus Williams]

[Text] Tortola, British Virgin Islands, Sept. 22, CANA—A state of emergency is in force in the British Virgin Islands as the government here grapples with devastation caused by Hurricane Hugo. The emergency, announced by Chief Minister H. Lavette Stoutt, will run for a month.

Government officials here said the emergency will allow the authorities to requisition medical supplies from private pharmacies, to use private land to set up poles and lines to beef up the electricity service, and obtain private transport for distributing food and other supplies, if these become necessary. They pointed out that there had been no violence or looting in the aftermath of the hurricane, as had happened in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Hugo caused widespread damage here as it rampaged through the Caribbean. Damage to agriculture and fishing was officially estimated at 6 million U.S. dollars. About 10 per cent of the population of 15,000 was left homeless and damage to the electricity service has been put at 1 million U.S. dollars. Roads here were a major casualty, especially the nine-mile highway running from the capital, Road Town, to the western end of Tortola.

Some of the major hotels were damaged. They include the Sugar Mill, Long Bay, Prospect Reef, and Frenchman's Cay, on the south coast. The management of Peter Island Hotel said the business might be closed for six months because of damage. Workers were told to stay home.

Government officials said livestock and crops were lost and more than 100 boats damaged or destroyed. Five government-owned schools suffered extensive damage. Classes across Tortola were suspended indefinitely.

Maintenance crews have been clearing the roads of debris. Shops are open and some government departments are working. The Island Revenue Department lost part of its road but taxes are being collected in another government office.

Haiti

CTH Secretary General Calls for Dialogue

*FL 2209/20000 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1300 GMT 21 Sep 89*

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Confederation of Haitian Workers [CTH] [abrupt] Secretary General Germain Jean-Francois, in an analysis of Haiti's socioeconomic situation, highlighted the inadequacy of salaries in relation to the rising cost of living during a news conference yesterday morning. He also denounced the policies of certain international organizations, such as the IMF and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) toward Haiti. Here is an excerpt of this press conference:

[Begin Jean-Francois recording in progress] country that is dying in your hands, while what we hear daily is that we must pay international debts. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The CTH also said that the military government's policy toward the Haitian people (will only) aggravate the Haitian people's lot. CTH said the government authorities should first pay the social debts they owe the Haitian people before even thinking paying the foreign debt, said CTH.

[Begin Jean-Francois recording] We can say that our buying power is zero. [passage omitted] [end recording]

CTH also thinks the government should use dialogue as the first initiative in confronting the current economic crisis. The union federation called on all sectors, in particular the workers and organizations affiliated with the CTH, to mobilize while waiting for a watershed from the CTH in order to give the government an appropriate response to the kind of problems currently confronting the country.

CTH Urges Unity

*FL 2209/20000 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network
in Creole 1300 GMT 21 Sep 89*

[Excerpts] The Confederation of Haitian Workers [CTH] calls on all Haitian people to ally with the CTH to provide a solution to the government's decision to widen the gap between the solvent and the poor. This is the outcome of a news conference the CTH held yesterday morning [20 September].

The CTH asks all unions, all people's organizations, and all political parties to unite to reach a joint decision on the crisis Haiti is traversing. [passage omitted]

[Begin CTH Deputy Secretary General German Jean-Francois recording] [Passage omitted] We ask all our affiliates to mobilize and await our watchword because we cannot endure this any longer. Together with all our allied organizations and [words indistinct] with we are going to wage a peaceful struggle. We will use all our might to say no to the contract signed between the Avel government and the International Monetary Fund. [end recording] [passage omitted]

If, in other countries AIDS is wreaking havoc, German Jean-Francois feels that it is the assembly industry in Haiti that is endangering the workers. They are inefficient after working in a factory for 2 years. They are fit only for a sanatorium. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Panama's Guillermo Ford Pays 1-Day Visit

FL209/201580 Bridgetown, C.A.N.A. in English
1729 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Sept. 22, C.A.N.A.—A member of the Panamanian opposition says he is hoping that the international pressure which is being applied against General Antonio Noriega's regime will lead to an early return to democracy in the country.

Guillermo Ford was on a one-day visit to Jamaica during which he met with Minister of Foreign Affairs David Coore.

Ford told a press briefing here that while the opposition enjoyed the support of the majority of the Panamanians, one of the main problems preventing the opposition from taking control was the reign of terror being waged by groups within the military. Panamanians were fearful, Ford said, and the immediate task of the opposition was to mobilize the people. The opposition, he said, wanted to avoid bloodshed and had planned a number of peaceful demonstrations to force Noriega to step down. He said that presidential candidate Guillermo Endara had begun a hunger strike as part of these demonstrations.

Asked about possible intervention by the United States military, Ford said that as long as Noriega remained in power, the question of military intervention could not be ruled out. No one was asking the United States to intervene, he said, adding that the Panamanian people were not against the United States. He told reporters however that if the present situation continued, the United States could intervene militarily.

Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley has said that he would be opposed to any form of military intervention as a means to solve the political crisis now facing Panama.

The opposition in Panama claims it was cheated out of the recent elections, which the authorities cancelled. The United States and other countries, which believe

Noriega's supporters lost the last poll, have been trying to get a transfer of power in the state.

Ford said that the Panamanian economy was stagnating, noting that gross domestic product had declined by 2.2 percent while unemployment was up 30 percent. Bank assets have also dropped from 4.7 billion U.S. dollars to 1.2 billion U.S. dollars, partly because of the assets freeze imposed by the U.S. Government, he reported. He said the opposition had already mobilised assistance from West Germany, England, France, and other countries to stimulate the economy when it assumes office.

Jamaica has refused to recognize the government installed by Noriega on September 1.

Security Tightens at Colombian Embassy

FL209/201580 Bridgetown, C.A.N.A. in English
1431 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Sept. 23, C.A.N.A.—Security at the Colombian Embassy in Kingston has been tightened following a bomb threat on Monday [18 September], the GLEANER newspaper reported.

Since Monday, there has been an increased presence of uniformed policemen on guard outside and inside the Xerox building where the Colombian Embassy has its offices.

Representatives of the Colombian Embassy were unwilling to talk to C.A.N.A., but the GLEANER reported that Minister of National Security K.D. Knight had confirmed that threats had been made against the embassy and that the necessary precautions had been put in place. He said there was no need for alarm. Knight said that the embassy had received a threatening note and that the ministry had also received one through a "channel," but gave no details.

Since taking office, the Manley Government has expressed its firm commitment to stamp out drug abuse and drug trafficking. Jamaica is said to be a transshipment point for drugs shipped from some Latin American countries to the United States.

The national security minister, however, said that from all indications the action was a "totally internal one" and there was no obvious connections with the drug war between the Colombian Government and the Medellin Cartel. "We are looking at the matter with all seriousness, but present indications show that we do not need to be alarmed and additional security measures have already been put in place," he said.

Trinidad and Tobago

Government Extends Immigrant Amnesty Plan

FL2009155896 Georgetown, C.A.N.A. in English
1126 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Sept. 23, C.A.N.A.—The Trinidad and Tobago Government says it will extend its one year amnesty program to allow illegal Caribbean Community (Caricom) immigrants to find money to pay for Trinidadian citizenship. Chief immigration officer Joseph Bodkyn, announced this week that the program, due to have run until September 25, will now run for a further six months.

Bodkyn pointed out that people who arrived here illegally before December 1986, and are eligible to become Trinidadian citizens, under the scheme have to find up to TT800 dollars (one TT dollar, 23.3 U.S. cents). The fee covers documents, including a police certificate of good character, a medical certificate, and 500 dollars to initially register for the program.

Bodkyn said that most of the would-be applicants worked in contracting parts of the local economy, such as the construction industry or in domestic jobs. So far, 5,000 people have been processed. Officials estimate that some 10,000 people are eligible for the program.

Bodkyn said applicants had originally hailed [word indistinct] all over the Caribbean Community, except Belize and The Bahamas. The majority of applicants had come from Grenada, Guyana, and St. Vincent and The Grenadines, Bodkyn said.

Eight of the 82 amnesty centers originally opened are now in operation.

Government has promised to step up its attempts to deport illegal immigrants after registration under the program is completed.

Official Predicts VAT To Cause 'Chaos'

FL2009155896 Georgetown, C.A.N.A. in English
1009 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Sept. 23, C.A.N.A.—The head of Trinidad and Tobago's Chamber of Industry and Commerce has complained of a lack of time to prepare for the implementation of a new Value Added Tax (VAT) next January.

"The inordinately short period of time within which physical and psychological preparation must be made carries within it the seeds, if not of failure, certainly of initial chaos," chamber president Audley Walker, said at the chamber's annual dinner. "This is one system that must be successful," Walker added. "We must bear in mind that no matter how simple the system is, we all need time to make the initial adjustments."

Although he stated that the dinner was not the occasion to comment on the specific provisions of the 15 per cent tax on the majority of goods and services, Walker made three main recommendations.

The chamber head suggested the publication of regulations under which VAT would be administered, pointing out that it would be impossible to determine the extent of the adjustment to the tax in the existing business system unless such information was forthcoming.

Secondly, Walker asked for more precise definitions to be given.

Thirdly, Walker suggested the establishment of a separate appeal mechanism to take objections arising out of the system.

"It is crucial to the success of the system that problems encountered be settled expeditiously," Walker said. "It is therefore necessary that the application of rules and regulations governing the system be clarified as quickly as possible."

40,000 March in Capital for Improved Conditions

PA2209410000 Mexico City: UNDETECT
in English: 20 Sep 89 p. 1

[R's staff reporter (Oscar Acosta)]

[Text] Four years after the deadly earthquake that hit Mexico City, thousands of those affected marched from the Plaza de las Tres Culturas to the Zócalo Tuesday to demand better living conditions.

The September 1985 quake killed over 3,000 people, leaving some 50,000 homeless and causing about 150 buildings to collapse.

Police officers suppressing the march estimated the crowd at about 15,000, while organizers and observers said about 40,000 people made their way to the Plaza de la Constitución.

Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, former presidential candidate for the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), led a portion of the rally, accompanied by party colleagues Sen. Porfirio Muñoz Ledo and Héctor Castillo.

Cárdenas told reporters during the march that the protest was proof of his party's fight for democracy and respect for the will of the people. Muñoz Ledo said the rally was "in remembrance of the day presidential autocracy was defeated."

He said these are days when the people are proving their capacity to govern themselves. "They showed the world that the people of Mexico could organize themselves for the good of the people."

Asked about the Chamber of Deputies sessions on election reform, Castillo said that no progress has been made because the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) continues to dominate the electoral governing body to manipulate elections in their favor.

"If the PRI does not accept proposals presented by the opposition, then no electoral reform will be achieved," he said. "The opposition is basically proving an equally formed Electoral Commission."

Organizations of affected families and unions formed by homeless and low-income people from different parts of the country formed the majority of the protest crowd.

The leader of a commission of those affected by the earthquake, Pablo Muñoz, said just over 2,000 families in Mexico City have received housing benefits. "But this is not enough, because there are still over 5,000 families in the capital alone that are still living in shacks and tents."

President Salinas Explains Government Plans

PA2209410000 Mexico City: UNDETECT
in Spanish: 14 Sep 89 pp. 1-3

[Article by special correspondent Victor Manuel Juárez]

[Text] Mexico City, Baja California, 13 September—Speaking to thousands of people from Mexicali who are demanding better living conditions, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari explained the government's plans for the republic based on a sovereign fatherland with justice and honesty. On his first workday in this state, which will have a PAN (National Action Party) government as of 1 November, Salinas de Gortari said he will fight corruption and pointed out:

Dis Honesty has caused as much harm as injustice. We will fight hard against both of them.

In his working tour through the state, the president received a very warm welcome from the people of Baja California. They also demanded drinking water, fair electricity rates, highways, schools, recreation centers, drainage facilities, and health units. A large crowd delivered hundreds of letters and documents with requests to him. During a meeting held at the El Polvorín neighborhood, he seriously explained their problems and demands. "We either cut or pay electricity," read one of the banners placed over a battered house made out of cardboard and wood, similar to many in the area.

The president listened to them, took some of what they said, and answered:

"I am here to tell you fellow countrymen of Baja California, that the government plans which we will promote here in Baja California will defend our sovereignty, promote action, and justice for poor neighborhoods, and we will work day after day to eliminate corruption."

He then announced that during his term in office, he will visit Baja California many times, contrary to rumors that the government would abandon this state once it had a PAN government. "I want to tell you that the entire Republic will support the program—sovereign fatherland, justice, and honesty—and we know that Baja California will work together with Mexico to make this true."

President Salinas de Gortari pointed out that in this state that has a good economic growth, one can no longer refer to the Mexican Revolution while so many other poor neighborhoods lack drinking water, electricity, drainage systems, adequate housing and roads, good schools for their children, and health centers.

He admitted the people no longer want to hear lies in speeches, or words that speak of justice. The people want these current problems solved in their poor neighborhoods. Those are their demands, and I am willing to work hard so that the solution to the problems you have mentioned will become a reality.

He was accompanied by a retinue that included the secretary of agriculture and water resources, Jorge de la Vega Domínguez; secretary of agrarian reform, Víctor Cervantes Pacheco; secretary of planning and budget, Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León; as well as Carlos Rojas Gutierrez, coordinator of the National Solidarity Program, and Emilio

Gambino Patron, director of Informavit, Salinas de Gortari then dedicated a housing complex.

During the dedication of the 280 housing units built by Informavit, Salinas spoke before thousands of people and praised them for their nationalism, tremendous sense of justice, and their demands for honesty.

He promised to support the work of the people of Baja California, with the resources of the government, as well as to work much harder for their social demands. He also promised to give them city services, as well as adequate housing and transportation.

Shortly before the president arrived, acting Governor Oscar Baylon Chacon said his government is preparing to turn the office over to the next PAN governor.

Chacon Baylon pointed out that now that the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] will become the opposition party, it will have the great task of organization and constant activity for the party's sake ahead. He stressed that many claim outstanding members of the PRI will work together with the Ruffo administration, but "I have no confirmation on this."

He did not wish to comment on the attitude of Xicotencatl Leiva Mortera.

EXCELSIOR Interview With Cardenas

PA209015089 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish
12 Sep 89 pp 3-4, 17-1

"Part I" of an interview with Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, leader of the Party of the Democratic Revolution, by Manu Dornbuerer—date and place not given

[Text] [Dornbuerer] Cuauhtemoc, I am talking with you on a first name basis, as I did on the two or three occasions I have had the pleasure of eating with you and your wife. I want to convey to the public the true image of Cuauhtemoc Cardenas without hypocrisy or pomp. What can you tell me about the campaign against you?

[Cardenas] There is certainly a campaign, not necessarily against me as a person, but rather against creating the Party of the Democratic Revolution and against the plan for independent and democratic development that we are promoting. To be sure, the campaign results in personal attacks not only against me but against my fellow party members. We are attributed with things we have not done or said; the way we truly are and what we do is totally warped to misinform and distort the truth, as part of a campaign to create confusion around—and certainly discredit—our movement and those who participate in it.

[Dornbuerer] As an observer, television viewer, and newspaper reader, I notice a campaign against you, although it touches others too. You say you are attributed with things you have not done. What things?

[Cardenas] To give you a specific example, for some months now, maybe years, if you consider the first references to it, it has been said that we support a moratorium on the foreign debt, unilaterally decided on and decreed by Mexico. We never said that. We said we cannot go on paying the foreign debt under existing terms but must conduct negotiations that put national interests first in order to grow economically and socially. It is also said our stances are inflexible. We have made appeals to reason and have the law enforced, like no one else. I think we are unwavering in demanding that the laws be enforced and the will of the people and the rights of citizens not be trampled on. Therefore, we are reasonable and open to seeking an understanding that will not entail yielding principles that must be upheld and not simply overrun by the authorities.

[Dornbuerer] Included among your fellow party members under attack are some former PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] members like Porfirio Muñoz Ledo. Do you think they were attacked especially because they left PRI?

[Cardenas] There are indeed many violent even vicious attacks against Muñoz Ledo in particular. I do not know if this is because he—we—belonged to the official party and left it to follow our ideological and political views or for another reason. I am more inclined to attribute the attacks to the fact that we maintain a firm and upright attitude regarding the principles we vowed to uphold, that we have not yielded to blackmail, that we refused to change our political stance in exchange of posts for our members or political and economic advantages.

[Dornbuerer] So it is not because you belonged to PRI, as the saying goes, there is no worse critic than one's own flesh and blood.

[Cardenas] My followers in Michoacan State were also attacked; for example, they are accused of inciting violence. I do not think that their former membership in the PRI is the reason for the attacks against them. On the topic of violence, the effect is always the same on our side: those killed, injured, or beaten belong to our side. How nice of us to incite violence so we could receive all the blows.

[Dornbuerer] I forgot that some of your people have been killed.

[Cardenas] Yes, one forgets the dead come from my side.

[Dornbuerer] One of them was Ovando, during your past campaign.

[Cardenas] Two of our members, Francisco Xavier Ovando and Roman Gil were killed on 2 July, a few days before the elections. Xavier Ovando was in charge of gathering electoral information at the time he was killed. He was a young man who worked with me for several years. He was a PRI leader in Morelia and above all, he was a man of convictions whose struggle began as a university student. Four more youth members—Ernesto

del Arco and three other youths—were murdered in August last year. They were slaughtered judging from the way in which the bodies were found, and the murderers have not yet been identified. After that, there have been other cases of militants who have been beaten, wounded, or killed, and it has always been from our side.

[Dornbierer] Cuauhtemoc, what about the violence in Michoacan? It is said that PRI members are very aggressive there.

[Cardenas] That is not true, in my opinion, there is no aggression against the people or civilians. What happened was that there was an initial aggression and violation of rights when votes were not respected and deputies were imposed. A number of electoral crimes and transgressions were committed, and the people's will was ignored. At first, we tried all the legal mechanisms. We protested and complained, in accordance with the electoral law, before the district electoral committees, the state electoral commission, and the state's Justice Court, which was the last body to reject our challenges and the evidence we presented. We even appealed to the Chamber of Deputies Electoral College, which we regard as illegal and illegitimate. We protested through all the legal means available, but our demands were unheard. We then had to implement other measures of public protest (known as civil resistance) in order to make authorities aware of the fact that we are demanding respect for our rights, and we cannot accept the outrageous and vile manner in which our citizen's rights have been violated. The only way in which we could demand compliance with the spirit of our laws was by exercising our right to publicly express our disagreement with the measures and actions taken against us. That is why we protested.

[Dornbierer] Although you did not have any other alternative, there were cases of aggression on the part of PRI members. I know of a man who was attacked and hurt by one of your men "because he was rich."

[Cardenas] I am the first one to regret and criticize violent actions. That is not the way or the attitude we expect from our members. However, this can be explained by the anger that existed at the time as a result of the abuses we were facing. Our indignation was just, but nevertheless that did not mean that we should act improperly by attacking or hurting people who after all are not responsible for the current situation and instead are victims themselves. Of course we do not encourage such behavior. On the contrary, I believe that it is reprehensible from any stance. I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to the serenity and solidarity that our followers should observe toward others regardless of whether or not they participate in our political activities.

[Dornbierer] What will happen in Michoacan in the near future if the government refuses to respect the people's will?

[Cardenas] Our members will probably continue protesting publicly in various ways. That state is really ungovernable. Demanding the removal of the current authorities in Michoacan is not arbitrary or capricious or based on press reports. The governor has not gone to the office in weeks, although access has not been blocked. Apparently he is at home and refuses to see anyone. No economic and administrative actions are being done in the state. Authorities are not doing their jobs in many aspects. I am not making this observation from a partisan standpoint. We will continue demanding through legal means and mass pressure the recognition that there is no state power. However, above all, our followers are already getting ready to participate in the upcoming municipal elections to be held in December within a broad and solid organization and with great enthusiasm. We must remember that people are really interested in municipal elections, because they must elect the authorities with whom they will have to deal every day. Therefore, the participation and desire to win municipal posts is greater than it is for other positions.

[Dornbierer] Cuauhtemoc, you were governor of that state which is now ungovernable. You were an austere governor. For some people, your past links with the PRI reduce your credibility. I have heard that when you were governor you established regulations to prevent protests from the opposition. Is that true?

[Cardenas] That is absolutely false. It is one of the many accusations and fallacies that have been raised against me. There were two municipal elections during my tenure. During the first election, I recall that one post was won by the PAN [National Action Party], and another one by the Mexican Democratic Party [PDM]. I am not very sure, but I recall that we had at least three or four municipal posts which were won by independent candidates who were not backed by any political party and received the majority of votes, winning the elections over the PRI candidates. Their victory was recognized and we governed with them. During my second term, there were municipal posts occupied by PAN members in Uruapan and Zamora, Michoacan's second and largest cities. The PDM won one, and three or four went to independent candidates. We had good relations with other parties.

[Dornbierer] While you were a PRI member did you feel that the party was acting correctly?

[Cardenas] Not always. Fortunately, there are many public statements and speeches that show that I was never an unconditional prisoner, and neither were many other former PRI members who are now in my party.

[Dornbierer] Are you sure none of them did, not even Porfirio Munoz Ledo as PRI president?

[Cardenas] His positions as president of the party and as a member were not those of a typical PRI supporter, if by typical we mean unconditional.

Belize

Government Calls on Panama To Hold Elections

PL2209195009 Bridgetown CANA in English
1410 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Sept 22. CANA—Belize has called on Panama to hold "early, free, and fair general elections." In a statement issued by Foreign Minister Said Musa, the government condemned the establishment of a regime headed by supporters of Panamanian strongman General Antonio Noriega, saying the move further isolated Panama from the international community.

The Panamanian authorities have been under fire for cancelling general elections the opposition said they had won.

"The Government of Belize continues to be seriously concerned at the erosion of the constitutional process in Panama, and the denial to the people of Panama of their right to freely elect a government of their choice," the statement read.

"The decision of the military commander to impose a president of his own choosing as the head of state of Panama further isolates Panama in the international community.

"The friendship and cooperation between the peoples of Belize and Panama have a long history, and it is the wish of the Government of Belize that this relationship should continue.

"The Government of Belize recalls the solidarity demonstrated by Panama during Belize's struggle for independence, and the pivotal role played by the late Panamanian leader, General Omar Torrijos toward the achievement of Belizean independence."

The Government of Belize called on the leadership in Panama to cooperate in the national and regional effort "to establish the framework for a return to democracy" and to put in place "mechanisms for early, free, and fair elections."

Costa Rica

'Commander David' Denies Armed Group in Country

PA2209031289 Paris AFP in Spanish 0227 GMT
23 Sep 89

[Text] San Jose, 22 Sep (AFP)—The promoter of an armed movement to fight the Panamanian regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega said here today that the movement operates "in coordination with the Panamanian opposition," but he denied that the group operates from Costa Rican territory.

The same individual identified himself as Commander David in a local television program 10 days ago during

which he announced his intention to recruit 1,500 combatants in Costa Rica to carry out an armed struggle against Panama's strong man.

Today, the individual was presented to the press by Costa Rican Security Minister Hernan Garron, who identified him as Walfrido Leiva Velazquez, of Cuban origin. Leiva has been living in Costa Rica as a refugee since 1983.

In somewhat confusing statements, Leiva asserted that several weeks ago he was contacted by a Panamanian, whom he identified as Osmelio Pitti, to form the armed movement. Leiva said that Pitti had contacted him on behalf of Guillermo Endara, former Panamanian opposition presidential candidate in the annulled 7 May elections.

Leiva described the statements he made to a Costa Rican television channel 10 days ago as "a mistake." He clarified that the anti-Noriega armed groups, of which he is a member, "are inside Panama and not in Costa Rica."

Leiva said that he is in Costa Rica only because he wants "to inform Panamanians about the actions that the armed group is carrying out inside Panama to overthrow Noriega."

Last week, Security Minister Garron identified Commander David as the head of an independence movement in the northern Costa Rican province of Guanacaste. However, today Leiva denied knowing anything about that movement.

Garron vigorously said, "There are no armed groups in Costa Rica, and there is no interest in trying to create a revolution in a fraternal and friendly nation."

Minister Garron admitted that Commander David's statements caused irreparable damage for Costa Rica, although he said that "those statements are absolutely groundless."

Finally, Minister Garron said that the case of Leiva will be studied by the Costa Rican Government Ministry, which could expel him from the country.

El Salvador

Cristiani Departs for Britain, Vatican, U.S.

PA2209194509 Panama City AC IN in Spanish
1747 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani today began a tour of Great Britain, the Vatican, and the United States in search of political and economic support and an improvement in his rightist government's international image.

In his first international tour as Salvadoran president, Cristiani will meet with Prime Minister Margaret

Thatcher in London and with Pope John Paul II in the Vatican, and will speak at the United Nations in the United States.

President Cristiani, leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), left today for London, where he will meet with British political and business leaders.

Official sources said the working tour has the objective of "strengthening ties of friendship and seeking new relations with friendly countries."

After having received authorization from the Legislative Assembly to leave the country, Cristiani said on 21 September that in his tour he will make known the country's real situation and the government's efforts to achieve peace and solve the economic problems.

Cristiani's request to the Legislative Assembly to leave the country included a stopover in Belgium, but the president later said that visit was eliminated because a Belgian loan for a Salvadoran power company was not concluded.

Political sources said that with this trip, President Cristiani is implementing a policy to improve his rightist government's image abroad.

According to opposition deputies, President Cristiani would have liked to have visited Spain and France and to meet with high-ranking Italian officials but he has yet to receive official invitations.

Cristiani is beginning the tour 2 weeks after the government and Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) delegations agreed in Mexico to work for an end to the country's 9-year-old war.

He is also beginning his trip a few days after the U.S. Senate voted to increase military aid to El Salvador from \$85 million to \$90 million in 1990 and to lift restrictions so that the government can receive the aid.

President Cristiani is accompanied by Foreign Minister José Manuel Pacas, Economy Minister Arturo Zablah, Planning Deputy Minister Ernesto Alschul, and Arturo Tuma, his private secretary.

The Salvadoran president's itinerary has not been officially released. It has only been disclosed that he will return to the country on 4 October.

Vice President Francisco Merino will be acting president during Cristiani's absence. Merino and other officials and military officers went to see him off today.

Cristiani on U.S. Military Aid, Duarte's Health

PL2209/213589 San Salvador Canal Dove Television
in Spanish: 1600 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Report by Marco Antonio Guevara]

[Text] Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani has said he is pleased with the increase of U.S. military aid to El Salvador, adding that this shows the U.S. senators trust our country.

Cristiani described the recently approved U.S. aid for El Salvador as a sign of trust in his government. He said that as long as the FMLN (Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front) does not lay down its weapons, the need for military aid is justified.

[Begin recording] Cristiani: We have the trust of the U.S. senators. They trust our plans for the nation, and this is proved by the fact that they even increased U.S. military aid for this year. The voting at the U.S. Senate in favor of the approval of the aid is unprecedented.

[Reporter] Does the increase of military aid not conflict with the peace efforts being made in the country?

[Cristiani] No, I do not think so, because the FMLN has not ceased hostilities yet. That means our Armed Forces must continue fulfilling their constitutional duty to defend Salvadoran citizens and maintain public order. To fulfill their mission, the Armed Forces need the means to do so.

If the FMLN decides to lay down its weapons and join the country's democratic process, then we will no longer need military aid. That aid can easily be turned into economic and social aid. [end recording]

President Cristiani also talked about the delicate health of former Salvadoran president José Napoleón Duarte. Cristiani visited Duarte yesterday. He said that Duarte will be remembered for his efforts in favor of democracy.

[Begin Cristiani recording] It was a cordial meeting. In spite of the circumstances, I think former President Duarte was in good spirits. We talked for about 10 minutes. He gets very tired from talking. He looked good. He was sitting down and he even got up from his chair. He has experienced a surprising, momentary recovery. [end recording]

Today, 22 September, President Cristiani hoisted the flag at the Masferrer Monument during the unveiling of a new bust in a San Salvador recreation center located in Escalón neighborhood.

Defense Chief on 'Possibility' of Troop Reduction

PL2209/215289 San Salvador Radio Cadena FMI
in Spanish: 1935 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Report by Carlos Mario Marquiza]

[Text] A few minutes ago, Defense and Public Security Minister General Rafael Humberto Larín announced that the Armed Forces are willing to study the possibility of a troop reduction if an agreement is reached with the leftist rebels of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front. General Larín made these statements to four domestic and international media reporters. Here are

excerpts of General Larín's statements when he announced that the Armed Forces would consider a reduction in troops.

[Begin Larín recording] ... when it involves damaging the institution—in this case the Armed Forces—we must understand that we were not born on a whim or by happenstance or accident. We are a constitutional institution and the Constitution has established clear tasks for us. Thus, our institution is authentic and legal.

Because of this, the concept or criteria of a reduction in Armed Forces personnel can be managed if it is based on very particular and specific terms. If, for example, we reach a political agreement with the terrorist forces for their peaceful return to the country's democratic life, then this would mean the end of the armed conflict. It would also mean that we, as the country's Armed Forces, would have to study and reconsider the need for the number of troops that we presently have available to confront an imposed situation, an aggression of a Marxist-Leninist nature. If an agreement in this sense is reached, we would be willing to analyze the institution's internal situation to determine the amount of human resources needed to comply with our constitutional responsibility. [end recording]

Those were statements by the defense minister at noon. He announced that the Armed Forces would be willing to study a reduction in forces if an agreement is reached between the government and rebel commissions at the meeting to be held in San José, Costa Rica, on 16 and 17 October. General Larín said that peace will be attained before the established date if the rebels show their good will to end the armed conflict in our country. This was last minute news. This is the first time a defense minister has made such an announcement in the past 9 years.

Deputy Minister Explains Use of U.S. Aid

PA2209221709 San Salvador Canal Docc Television
in Spanish 0600 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Juan Orlando Zepeda confirmed today that the \$5-million increase in U.S. military aid will be used to supply security units with the necessary equipment for their interior operations and to improve investigations into cases of common crime. According to Col Zepeda, the aid increase will primarily be seen in the cities, where it is most needed because of the increase in violent activities promoted by people's organizations and common criminals.

[Begin Zepeda recording] The aid for security units, which had been suspended, has now been approved. There had been a series of restrictions in Congress, but I see we now have the opportunity to better equip our security groups. We need communications equipment, such as radios and vehicles, and perhaps some more arms that are better suited for city use. We also need better technical training in investigating common crime and subversive aggression. [end recording]

U.S. Reporter To Be Sent to Immigration

PA2209167009 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA
in Spanish 21 Sep 89 p. 22

[Text] The Law on Foreigners will be applied to U.S. journalist Wendy Rachel Wallace, who was arrested when the National Police dislodged the people who had occupied the Central Mission Church of Central America on Monday night.

The journalist was arrested by policemen when they removed members of FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] from the church. The FENASTRAS members had occupied the church for several hours after setting two buses on fire.

After being investigated by the National Police, the reporter was turned over yesterday to the Treasury Police, who will place her under the jurisdiction of immigration authorities.

The country's immigration authorities have repeatedly warned that the law prohibits foreigners from interfering in El Salvador's political affairs.

Bishop Rons Chavez on San José Meeting

PA2209032009 San Salvador Canal Docc Television
in Spanish 0800 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Monsignor Rons Chavez, the auxiliary Catholic bishop of San Salvador, stated that the upcoming meeting between government and rebel commissions in San José, Costa Rica in mid-October will be a most difficult one because of the differences that have to be overcome. He said that there are sectors in the government and Armed Forces that are distrustful and do not want to accept the FMLN [Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front] proposal.

Rons Chavez added that he believed the rebel proposal was a realistic one because it was within the country's legal framework. He also said that the country's economic sectors were on a hurry to attain peace because they know that an economic recovery is not possible if war does not end. Rons Chavez stated that President Cristiani will have to work hard to counter the resistance of certain sectors toward the guarantees demanded by the FMLN to reach a cease-fire, as this is to be the main topic of the meeting in San José.

FMLN Refuses To Extend Cease-Fire Date

PA2209211209 Buenos Aires REUTERS in Spanish
2016 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Managua, 22 Sep (REUTERS)—The Salvadoran guerrillas announced in Managua today that they will not extend the cease-fire which was declared 13 September and which expires on 23 September because it was not observed by the Army.

"There is no possibility for it to be extended, because it was not observed by the Army," said Salvador Samayoa,

spokesman for the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) in a news conference:

The rebels had declared a unilateral cease-fire 13-23 September "to create the proper climate for the beginning of the peace negotiations and to facilitate the arrival of the UN mission, which is currently visiting El Salvador," he added.

Samayoa said the Armed Forces are not interested in peace and he accused them of launching offensives in the areas that were going to be toured by the UN mission in their visit to FMLN camps.

Samayoa also said the Army "has launched a wave of repression" which has resulted in the arrest of over 100 people in various parts of the country, including San Salvador, in the last 3 days.

The rebel leader described as [words indistinct] and unfortunate "the 5-million dollar increase in U.S. aid to the Salvadoran Armed Forces at a time when they have begun a repressive escalation."

The FMLN hopes that during the next peace talks scheduled to take place in Costa Rica on 16 and 17 October, "the Salvadoran Government will appoint high-level military officers to begin discussing fundamental points regarding a cease-fire."

The agreement to meet again was reached in Mexico last week when a government delegation and rebel leaders drafted a schedule for the initiation of the negotiation process.

"If they insist on continuing the war, he added, we can guarantee that we will remove the ARENA (National Republican Alliance) from power just as we did the Christian Democratic Party," Samayoa said.

Samayoa said the FMLN may win the war, but at a very high cost for the Salvadoran people. "It would be enough to mention that, according to the Defense Ministry report to Congress, the Armed Forces have suffered 30,000 casualties since 1980," he said.

"The FMLN has control over at least a fourth of the national territory and 100 of the 200 municipalities have no civilian government," he added.

Samayoa regretted former President Jose Napoleon Duarte's poor health condition. "He always talked about democratic plans, but when he came to power, he did everything backward," he said.

Duarte, who is suffering from liver and stomach cancer, ruled El Salvador until 1 June, when rightist Alfredo Cristiani was sworn in as president.

FMLN-FIDR Leaders Comment on Dialogue

PAZ 009161789 (Clandestino) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] A powerful sector within the Armed Forces is opposed to the peace talks in El Salvador and is taking political advantage of the enthusiasm caused by the dialogue to launch a terrible repression against the labor movement. Salvador Samayoa [member of the Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, FIDR-FMLN, Political Diplomatic Commission], said during an interview.

Vice President Francisco Merino said the [words indistinct] workers are the lowest class of people. Merino said the cease-fire agreement should include the reduction of street violence. The interior minister is endangering the dialogue and negotiating process with his war declarations.

We will never agree to discuss in secrecy a problem affecting the entire country, as if it was something private or a shady business, Salvador Samayoa said, referring to the reserved nature the government is trying to give to the talks with the FMLN. The ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] government wants a dialogue of catacombs, a secret dialogue where the government can be [words indistinct] and ignore the FMLN proposals. The government wants a dialogue in which no one knows what is happening at the negotiating table, the FMLN Political Diplomatic Commission member added. Samayoa said the FMLN wants a private and serious dialogue. However, it wants the political and social sectors to receive sufficient information on the events so there will be pressure on the government, and for the government to assume the costs and consequences of its actions.

Social Christian Movement leader Guillermo Ungo said [words indistinct] can be perceived in the national dialogue [words indistinct]. The Democratic Convergence leader clearly stressed there are still sectors within the government who want to pay a very low price for peace [words indistinct]. Ungo said he had reservations about the outcome of the upcoming meeting in Costa Rica. However, he thinks the [Armed Forces] high command should take part in this meeting because the Army is the organization with whom the cease-fire should be discussed.

Regarding the problem of distrust toward the FMLN, which some military men have mentioned, Dr Ungo said the Army has the same or less credibility than the rebels. Therefore, the only way to gain confidence is by engaging in a dialogue-negotiating process. Everything else is pure speculation, he added.

The problems of the war crippled should be solved by the government one way or another. Salvador Samayoa told the newsmen. Our comrades are calm at a battle station. They are not prisoners, have no [words indistinct] have not been prosecuted, and the amnesty law does not apply.

to them. The case of the crippled FMLN combatants who are at the cathedral is clearly a case of humanitarian rights. The ARENA government should solve this case sooner or later, one way or another, the FMLN leader warned.

Vice President on Dialogue Advisory Commission

PL200915.0009 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSAI
in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Salvadoran Vice President Francisco Merino says that if a cease-fire is arranged with the FMLN [Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front] guerrillas, the reduction of street violence promoted by popular organizations should also be looked at. The vice president said that the cease-fire should not only include the military, but also the actions of the rebels' mass groups which hinder the harmony that should exist in El Salvador.

Merino said that for the next dialogue meeting, an advisory commission will be formed with military men, private business representatives, and a few political party representatives. This dialogue advisory commission, Merino added, will be coordinated by the Salvadoran vice president.

Commission for Repatriation To Be Formed

PL200916.0009 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSAI
in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Interior Minister Francisco Merino has announced that next week a tripartite commission will be formed by Honduras, El Salvador, and the United Nations to hasten the refugees' repatriation.

Merino also said that a government commission will visit the refugee camps in Honduras to initiate the process of identifying and documenting refugees who are planning to return to El Salvador. The minister again asked intermediary organizations not to interfere in the process the government is carrying out. He reiterated that the intermediary organizations are attempting to manipulate those repatriated into sheltering the FMLN [Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front].

Presidency Minister on FMLN Dialogue

PL200914.0009 San Salvador Canal Doce Television
in Spanish 1900 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Report on statements by Presidency Minister Colonel Juan Antonio Martinez Varela by reporter Maria de los Angeles Temocli in San Salvador on 19 September—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Four days after the conclusion of the dialogue meeting between the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN [Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front], the dialogue continues to cause positive reactions from the various political and government circles.

This morning, Colonel Juan Antonio Martinez Varela, Presidency minister and member of the government dialogue commission, made a statement on the agreements reached during the meeting in Mexico and expressed his optimism about the final results of the talks.

Col Martinez Varela also expressed optimism about the results of the first meeting with the FMLN, saying that the talks had taken place within a working, harmonious atmosphere.

[Martinez] "We talked very calmly and peacefully, and in perfect harmony. The attitude of the FMLN in Mexico was very positive."

Martinez Varela said that future talks between the government and the FMLN will be confidential. This would imply that neither of the two sides will reveal their proposal before they again sit at the negotiating table, thus granting more flexibility to the proposals and the agreements.

[Martinez] "We must act seriously. That is why the FMLN representatives will have our proposal firsthand, as we had theirs at the last meeting."

[Reporter] "Words indistinct can you tell us something specific about the proposal the government will present to the FMLN in the next meeting?"

[Martinez] "We will begin by discussing their proposal, and once that discussion is completed we will present our proposal."

Col Martinez said that the agreement on the formation of the commissions allows the delegations of the two sides to remain unchanged or to add new members if they wish to do so. The agreement also allows the two sides to completely change the conformation of their delegations as they see fit.

[Martinez] "There is no inflexibility regarding the commissions. The agreement states that the delegations can remain unchanged or can add new members. There is a whole series of measures regulating this dialogue."

Police Warn of Strong Action in Case of Riots

PL200916.0009 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSAI
in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] National Police Director Colonel Mauricio Guzman Aguilar has given assurances that the police will take forceful action if any incidents are reported during the demonstrations the labor unions are holding.

Guzman Aguilar said the police have been too lenient with individuals who promote street riots, burn buses, and attack riot police. He said that the security force he directs will not allow further destruction and disorder by these groups, which he described as FMLN [Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front] front groups.

Two Ministries Eliminated by Legislative Decree

PAZ/09044/2000 San Salvador: I. J. PIRENNE (GRL) in Spanish, 22 Sep 99 p. 1.

[Text] The decree that created the Foreign Trade Ministry, which was issued by the Revolutionary Government Junta on 20 December 1979, has been repealed by the Legislative Assembly.

Decree No. 293, issued by the Legislative Assembly on 27 July 1989, established that the personnel and resources from all of the different programs, as well as the budget currently assigned to the repealed Foreign Trade Ministry, will be transferred to the Economy Ministry.

President Alfredo Cusiani's administration has eliminated two ministries: the Foreign Trade Ministry, which should have been marketing and promoting the exports of new articles, but which according to many, did not fulfill this function; and the Culture and Communications Ministry, created by the Duarte administration, which was termed a propaganda office from the very beginning.

The executive branch requested the elimination of the two ministries through the Economy Ministry.

Guatemala**Columbian Cartels Establish Supply Routes**

PAZ/0905/0000 Buenos Aires: REUTER in Spanish, 14/5 GMT, 22 Sep 99.

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 22 Sep (REUTERS)—According to Western diplomats, Colombian drug traffickers have moved to Guatemala in search of new supply routes, bringing instability to a country that is experiencing a wave of violence from various sectors.

The diplomats believe that up to 2000 Colombians linked to the Medellin and Cali cartels are now operating in Guatemala and that about 500 kg of cocaine pass every week through the country, enroute essentially to the U.S. market.

The increasing drug trafficking activity coincides with a new wave of kidnappings, bombings, and murders in Guatemala, awakening fears that the country will return to the violence prevalent at the beginning of the decade, when thousands were killed by death squads during military regimes.

Since August, a prominent politician, a well-known banker, and at least five university students have been murdered. Several bombs have exploded in the capital in recent months and students and human rights activists are missing.

"All of this violence cannot be blamed on a [word indistinct], but the increase of drug trafficking is clearly an additional concern."

In addition to the cocaine, which the diplomats say is taken to the United States aboard light planes or in automobiles through Mexico and Texas, U.S. officials have reported an increase in opium production in Guatemala. According to estimates, the number of hectares planted went from 225 in 1985 to 1,500 this year.

There are insistent rumors that banker Ramiro Castillo Llover was murdered outside his house on 25 August because he refused to launder drug money. There is open talk in the capital about important politicians being linked to drug trafficking.

Nevertheless, the diplomats say that there is no evidence to back such speculation and they add that it is very likely that several interests are working to destabilize the country's fragile democracy. [passage omitted]

Fear that the violence of the seventies will return may also contribute toward a resurgence in the number of illegal immigrants that cross over to Mexico.

Mexican authorities say that the number of undocumented Central Americans deported to Guatemala has doubled over the past few months.

The diplomats feel that Cerezo's government will weather the violence and pass it onto his successor after the presidential elections scheduled for November 1990.

"Perhaps the situation is the result of the preparation for elections in Guatemala," a diplomat said. "Things will probably worsen next year."

Criminal Investigations Chief, Deputy Dismissed

PAZ/09010/000 Paris: AFP in Spanish, 2/14 GMT, 22 Sep 99.

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Sep (AFP)—The main chiefs of the Criminal Investigations Directorate (DIC) of the Guatemalan Police were suddenly dismissed from their posts. DIC Director Colonel Giovanni Cardenas reported today.

"We have made this decision in order to carry out a thorough investigation of the police force," Cardenas said referring to the dismissal of the DIC chief and deputy chief, Jorge Mendez and Nere Pineda, who will be replaced by Rembert Larios and Manuel Pinto.

The sudden dismissal of the main chiefs of the DIC took place 3 days after President Vinicio Cerezo admitted that security forces are involved in a wave of kidnappings and murders of students, which have shaken the country.

Meanwhile, Peter H. Kooijmans, UN special rapporteur on torture cases, today continued his meetings with various groups in the country to familiarize himself with the situation prevailing in Guatemala. The official, who will conclude his official visit on Friday, has met with President Cerezo and representatives of the people's and human rights organizations.

Rebel Officers Linked With Wave of Violence

PAZ091901004 Paris: AFP in Spanish 112141M
22 Sep 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Sep (AFP)—A high-ranking military source close to Venancio Cerros's government suggested today that "The Officers of the Mountain" (ODEM), a secret military organization that conducted two failed coups in the last year and a half, may be involved in the wave of terrorist explosions, abductions, and political murders that has been scourging Guatemala over the last 2 months.

The military source, who made statements to AFP on the condition that his identity was not revealed, said that "those gentlemen (ODEM) have become the number one enemy" of Cerros's government.

The source added that "the country is again facing certain threats, including that of those gentlemen."

Thus far, nobody knows for sure who the members of the organization are, although some media sources claim they are "very powerful and well organized."

Amid the terrorist activity that has been shaking Guatemala over the last 2 months, "ODEM" has been marking its increasing presence through frequent communiques released clandestinely in Guatemala City. In the communiques, it launches harsh attacks on the current Guatemalan government.

In one of their most recent communiques, which they circulated in Guatemala City last week, the rebel military group says: "We will not stop until we change this system of anarchy, corruption, and drug trafficking."

According to an official Army spokesman, the so-called militarymen "are officers who were removed from power in the last few years and lost all their leadership in the barracks. Their resentment is being manipulated by political, conservative forces."

"They are manipulated by people of the extreme right, in other words, by political criminals who want to return to power to regain their past privileges." This was stated today by one of the military officers who linked the ODEM to the escalation of terrorism in the country.

The same source admitted that the suspected military terrorists could have "supporters" within the Army, but added that "the unity" of the Guatemalan Armed Forces is not threatened by them.

In their frequent communiques, ODEM identifies itself as "patriots who oppose the communist and corrupt system they [not further identified] want to impose on us through the current policy implemented by the drug trafficking clique in power."

Army Captain's Father Supplies Terrorist Weapons

PAZ090415004 Guatemala City: LAZ MORA in Spanish
20 Sep 89 p.4

[Text] Army Spokesman Colonel Luis Arturo Isaacs has said that possession of war material designated for the exclusive use of the military makes Lionel Sotomera Otero a terrorist. However, Col Isaacs did not confirm whether Sotomera was involved in the terrorist attacks that have taken place in the past few weeks.

Investigations have confirmed that it was Lionel Sotomera Otero who supplied grenades to those who are now under arrest. Once arrested, Sotomera will have to explain to the court why he had the weapons, Col Isaacs added.

Col Isaacs confirmed that military intelligence is investigating how and from where Sotomera Otero obtained the war material.

The military spokesman said the possession of war material by civilians is prohibited and punishable by law. In this respect, Civilian Protection System authorities should deepen their investigations and the courts should be stricter.

Asked about the surprising and sudden manner in which Captain Lionel Sotomera Condere, son of Sotomera Otero, was sent out of the country, Col Isaacs said that it had been done for his personal safety, since any extremist faction could take advantage of the situation to try to harm him.

Isaacs confirmed that Capt Sotomera Otero was appointed military attaché at the Guatemalan Embassy in Venezuela and that filling this position is part of the soldier's duty.

When asked whether Capt Sotomera Condere could have supplied the weapons to his father, Col Isaacs rejected the possibility, adding that every officer knows perfectly well that keeping war material at home is forbidden and in violation of Armed Forces directives.

Possession of weapons is a misdemeanor and not a felony, Col Isaacs said. As an example, he said he has a "Gale" which he keeps at his office, although he carries his handgun wherever he goes.

However, he said the possibility is being investigated, although he considers it far-fetched. As a rule the Army protects its members, and this is precisely why Capt Sotomera Condere was given diplomatic status and sent to Venezuela.

On another subject, Col Isaacs said he had no knowledge of a guerrilla attack on the Acatezengo Detachment, pointing out that the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) makes false claims that do not correspond with reality.

There have been persistent rumors of a recent subversive group attack on the Acentango Detachment during which many casualties were inflicted.

Labor Leaders Report Receiving Death Threats

PAZ/199164089 Guatemala City EL GRAPHO
in Spanish 18 Sep 89 p 4

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Sep.—The convulsive and violent atmosphere felt in the country over the past few weeks reached the major labor unions with death threats that were made against their leaders, it was reported on 17 September.

The labor leaders made those charges in the presence of Monsignor Prospero Penados del Barrio during talks held at the Archbishop's Palace to create a "great front against violence, repression, and terrorism, and to defend the democratic system."

According to the labor leaders' disclosures, the threats were made against the leaders of organizations like the Guatemalan Confederation for Trade Union Unity (CUSG), the Guatemalan Workers' General Central Organization (Central General de Trabajadores de Guatemala), CGTG, the National Federation of State Workers Unions, FENASTEG, the Guatemalan Workers' Trade Union (Union Sindical de Trabajadores de Guatemala), Unstragusa, and others.

"You are next..." say the telephone messages received in the main offices of each of these unions or in the private homes of several of their leaders.

It was also reported the unions' main offices had been under the surveillance of unidentified persons, watching from cars with tinted glasses.

As is known, the threats and harassment have been basically aimed at mass and student organizations such as the Mutual Support Group, GAM, Peace Brigades, the AEU (Association of University Students), and several participants in the great national dialogue.

In facing this situation, labor leaders that were interviewed asked the government to abide by its constitutional mandate to guarantee the life and security of the people and, in this particular case, to protect their lives and the organizations to which they belong.

In conclusion, the labor leaders said that despite their concern about the prevailing climate of insecurity, they will continue to organize the workers, since that is their legitimate right and does not constitute a crime.

We are firmly determined to struggle for the existence of democratic order because the maneuvering room that has been achieved at the cost of the lives of many comrades must be broadened, not closed, they noted.

Threatened University Students Flee Country

PAZ/199171739 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2047 GMT
22 Sep 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Sep (EFE).—Five Guatemalan university leaders threatened with death have sought refuge in Panama, Costa Rica, and Mexico, while UN human rights observer Peter Kooijmans is in Guatemala conducting an investigation on the increasing violence in this Central American country.

According to members of the University Student Association (AEU) of San Carlos de Guatemala University, the students leaders decided to leave the country because of the continuous threats of death and persecution and due to the kidnapping and assassination of five university students.

The names of the students who fled the country are being kept secret to protect their relatives who live in Guatemala City and in the interior of the country, the sources maintained.

Three of the students traveled to Panama, one to Mexico, and another to Costa Rica.

This month, the corpses of five assassinated AEU leaders were found in the capital, some with signs of torture. Six other university student leaders remain kidnapped.

Belisario Polo, student affairs director at the University of Panama, today told EFE that the three AEU leaders arrived in the country last weekend and are living in private houses.

Guatemalan Government officials said they have no official reports on the departure of the highest AEU leaders.

The departure of the five university students leaders coincides with the visit to Guatemala of Peter Kooijmans, who yesterday met Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, government officials, and Army officers to gather information.

During his meeting with Government Minister Roberto Valle, Kooijmans requested reports on the investigations the government has conducted on the case of the kidnapped students, the Guatemalan Government official said.

The kidnapping and assassination of the five university students and the threats against other AEU members have been condemned by leaders from universities in Mexico, Honduras, Peru, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama.

University student leaders from Canada, Ecuador, Chile, and the FRG have expressed their solidarity and demanded that the Guatemalan Government investigate these assassinations.

The AEU requested the Higher University Council to suspend classes for the current semester in view of the

wave of violence Guatemala is suffering and in view of the death threats against the main student leaders. As a response, the CNS has decided to let each academic section decide the strategy it will implement to get protection from the violence. Several of the state university schools have modified the evening schedule, and most classes have been reduced to 2-hour periods so students can return home early.

Several labor union organizations have condemned the kidnapping and assassination on 15 September of Eduardo Antonio Lopez Palencia, a student whose corpse showed signs of torture.

URNG Congratulates ORPA on 10th Anniversary

PL20915189 Guatemala City: EL GRAPICO
in Spanish 19 Sep 89 p. 7

[Communique issued by the General Command of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) on 18 September]

[Text] On the 10th Anniversary of the Emergence of the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA) Vanguard Detachment of the Guatemalan Revolution.

It was 10 years ago that Commander Gaspar Ilom and the ORPA commanders publicly announced the existence of a political-military organization that overcame most difficult tests, repression, persecution, anonymity, adversity, financial limitations, and the loss of several of its leaders, in reality, had begun its activities 8 years before.

In making the announcement with modesty and without orientation, risking their lives and future, which they placed at the service of the Guatemalan Revolution through the most dangerous and arduous revolutionary path—armed guerrilla struggle—the ORPA leaders objectively defined that fraternal revolutionary organization without pretensions, is, in reality, a fundamental part of the Guatemalan people's vanguard.

Today we solemnly and joyfully commemorate the 10th anniversary of continuous struggle that includes victorious clashes and hardship.

That is only part of ORPA's history, that which is publicly known. Therefore, our homage to our brothers today must also be understood as a tribute to the glory and sacrifice of the martyrs and heroes, who, with incomparable tenacity, firm conviction, and patience, forged and developed ORPA, one of the powerful detachments that make up the URNG.

The achievements through which ORPA's leaders, commanders, cadres, militants, members, and fighters have contributed and still contribute to the Guatemalan people's revolutionary and unitary struggle, have an unquestioned significance and value. We can affirm with total responsibility and historical objectivity that without

those contributions given at all levels in which the revolutionary, popular, and democratic process is being conducted and in the various forms of combat, the URNG's existence and the level of development that our people's struggle has acquired inside and outside the country would have been impossible.

All militants of fraternal organizations are proud to have the ORPA brothers on our side, in the heat of combat, in compliance with political, diplomatic, and popular tasks in our daily activities, inseparably united by the aspirations and victorious achievements of our Fatherland, our firm political and ideological convictions, and our steadfast determination to struggle tirelessly until we achieve victory for our cause.

In commemorating another anniversary of ORPA's existence, on behalf of our respective groups, we would like to send to its members—wherever they may be and whatever trench they may have to defend—our hearty message: revolutionary greetings, and sincere recognition for the years of heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to the revolution and to the cause of the Guatemalan people.

Eternal glory to those who have fallen in this noble and just struggle. Their example will live always in the thoughts and action of revolutionaries. Our fervent desire for new and greater victories and special honorable greetings to Commander Gaspar Ilom, ORPA's creator and founder and undoubtedly one of the leaders of the Guatemalan people's united vanguard.

[Signed] URNG General Command

[Dated] 18 September 1989

Honduras

President Azcona Reviews Contra Problem 22 Sep

PL210918089 Panama City: EC EN in Spanish
2108 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Sep (ACAN-EPB)—Honduran President Jose Azcona announced today that the United Nations will send approximately 700 men to Honduras to work on the Nicaraguan contras' demobilization.

The president said that last week two representatives, one from the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV) and one from the OAS, as well as a UN mission, visited Honduras to begin talks with the anti-Sandinistas who had initially announced their refusal to surrender their weapons.

The UN mission visited the five Central American countries to examine the areas where the ONUCA [Group of UN Observers to Central America] observers will work.

President Azcona said that the "contingent of forces" consists of "approximately 700 men who will be established in Honduras," adding, "I am no longer interested in what the anti-Sandinist rebels say."

There are approximately 13,000 "contra" fighters stationed in Yamales, eastern Honduras who, their commanders have reiterated, are willing to surrender their weapons "only when there is peace and democracy in Nicaragua."

In response to a question regarding the possibility of the "contras" being dismantled prior to February 1990, Arzoz said he believes they can be.

"That could happen, it depends on how things evolve in Nicaragua," Arzoz added, reiterating that he cannot accept the "contras' refusal to surrender their weapons.

"They cannot adopt that stance because they are not in a position to do so; they can adopt it if they go to Nicaragua and say they are not going to demobilize," the president said.

According to Arzoz, the "contras" chose Honduras as "a sanctuary," to a certain point as a means of protecting their lives; the decision was made for purely humanitarian reasons.

The Honduran president said that "everything is moving forward, perhaps not as fast as I would like, but it is moving forward," and added that he has "a great deal of faith in that the Central American problem will be resolved and every country in the region will enter a phase of democracy."

The anti-Sandinist rebels must be demobilized prior to 8 December according to the agreements signed on 7 August by the five Central American presidents in Tela, Honduras.

The demobilization will be handled by the CIAV, an organization established by the UN and OAS on 6 September.

Foreign Minister Lopez on Demobilization

PA2409022189 Tegucigalpa: Univ. de Honduras; Network, in Spanish 1903 GMT 19 Sep 90

[News conference with Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras by unidentified reporters; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister, I would like to ask you about contradictions between statements made by the president of the Republic and your own statements concerning the deadline for the voluntary demobilization or repatriation of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries and their relatives to Nicaragua or third countries. The president said that if the contras do not want to leave, the Armed Forces would not be called in. You said that the contras must go. What about speculation that this issue is being exploited internally for political purposes?

[Lopez] I see no contradiction. There is talk about this during the various phases of a process, and people get the

wrong impression that there are indeed contradictions when there are actually none.

When the presidents signed a document to demobilize armed groups, there was no doubt that the presidents were indeed determined to implement the demobilization. There are several phases within this process where various issues can be discussed, including demobilization itself or the laying down of arms, repatriation, relocation in a third country, or readoption of refugee status. Those are the alternatives open to armed groups that are in Honduras.

If an armed group in Honduras says that it refuses to demobilize, this means that it refuses to lay down its arms. It is clear that the government's position is that Honduras no longer wants armed groups to use its territory as a sanctuary. Thus, if foreign armed groups refuse to lay down their arms, they will have to settle in another country. That is our position.

The Honduran Government is not willing to use force to take arms away from these groups. In our efforts to comply with our commitment not to allow the use of our territory, we have instructed the technical groups and ministers to draft and sign a demobilization document and to ask international organizations to come to Honduras and make efforts with the armed groups and the government of the country to which they belong, that is, Nicaragua, to reintegrate its members to society. That is what they are doing. This is a psychological incentive action.

[Reporter] The contacts made by the International Support and Verification Commission, CIAV—which is responsible for the contra demobilization—are preliminary. This weekend, contra leaders said that they will not turn over their weapons. This worries Honduras because we feel this is a challenge inside our own country, in spite of efforts by international organizations to verify this demobilization. What is your opinion about this?

[Lopez] The full story must be told. They said that it will not turn over their weapons. However, according to the local media I have read, they said that if they refuse to turn over their weapons, they know that they have a specific deadline established by the Honduran Government to leave the country with their weapons. Therefore, this means that they would be willing to leave, with their weapons, to fight the governments they oppose. Consequently, there are no contradictions.

[Reporter] Do you think that Honduras [words indistinct] with that attitude would endanger the agreements signed by the leaders of the region?

[Lopez] Undoubtedly, this would result in problems, but these would not be new problems. These are problems that have always existed. In this regard, Honduras feels that the Central American crisis will not be solved by pressuring our country to solve its neighbors' problems, but by pressuring the countries that generate the problem.

to settle the matter through a political solution, one that includes national reconciliation and democratization. This is no new language. It is the same used throughout the Contadora negotiations. It is the same language used in the Contadora documents. Therefore, it is not a matter of adopting a self-advantageous position. It is simply a matter of identifying the source of the problem. We, as a country, must seek a solution to the irregular immigration to our country. An internal problem is not solved by forcing citizens to immigrate to Honduras, whether these citizens are coming to Honduras as refugees or [words indistinct]. This is not a matter that should be viewed from the Honduran stand only. This was not the way the Central American presidents focused this problem. The presidents saw it as a problem affecting the region and everyone should share this responsibility. But the responsibility to solve the demobilization problem was transferred to an international organization. For this reason, the United Nations and the OAS are jointly participating in a mechanism called the CIAV to supervise the Esquipulas agreements.

[Reporter] According to statements by the Sandinist Army General Staff and remarks made in Managua published in the local Honduran media today, it is being said that the contras are planning to leave (5,000) weapons in the border area, practically evading the demobilization. This will be done to keep the guerrillas active. Honduras has said that it will guarantee that irregular groups will leave the country and that it will not be used to attack Nicaragua or El Salvador or other neighbors. Why do you think of this?

[Lopez] The Nicaraguan military general staff must look at things from its own political and military interests. It is very understandable. However, not all the governments will act in accordance with those interests, but in line with their own. [words indistinct] these interests in Central America, through the creation of an organization to fulfill this duty objectively, and that organization is the CIAV. The CIAV is establishing contact with the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran armed groups, and with the governments established in each Central American country to make feasible and speed up the demobilization process, as well as get the resources to repatriate these armed groups. In addition, the fact that 5,000 contras want to stay behind does not mean that it is part of a Honduran policy. Our policy was very clear when Honduras asked for a mechanism and a document designing the demobilization and establishing a mechanism that will prevent the use of our territory. Therefore, if there are 5,000 who want to stay, well, they have 90 days to turn over their weapons voluntarily. But after that time, they will have to leave Honduras because, otherwise, coercive measures will be put into effect. These measures will not be applied by the government but by international organizations which we requested. After the Tula meeting, I asked the UN Security Council to look into this, following instructions from the government.

More Refugees Reported: Returning to Nicaragua

PA/09015000 San Pedro: Sula. THE MPO in Spanish
22 Sep 89 p. 16

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Nicaraguan refugees installed in El Paraiso Department, who traditionally have been reluctant to accept their repatriation, are now returning to their country, encouraged by the pacification agreements leading to the demobilization of the contras and elections in Nicaragua.

Colonel Abraham Garcia Turcios, coordinator of the National Refugee Commission (CONARE), who confirmed this to EL TIEMPO, said that "under the Tula agreements significant groups of 100 to 150 people are leaving monthly for Nicaragua."

Approximately 13,000 Nicaraguan refugees who have settled in the Las Vegas and Tapasotz camps in El Paraiso have repeatedly rejected the voluntary repatriation programs promoted by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The refugees are relatives or supporters of the anti-Sandinist rebels, whose demobilization must be completed by December, according to the agreements signed by the Central American presidents in Tula.

"These people were once reluctant to accept their repatriation," Garcia Turcios told EL TIEMPO. He added that the return of "ladino" refugees to Nicaragua is a direct result of the Tula agreements signed in August.

The "ladino" refugees are returning by land to Nicaragua from where they have fled during the past few years in the midst of the war that UN-backed Nicaraguan contras waged from bases in Honduras.

Garcia Turcios said that since the signing of the Tula agreements, between 100 and 150 Nicaraguan refugees are returning to their country every month. This is in contrast to previous months and years, when groups of only 20 to 40 refugees left every now and then.

Garcia Turcios said that the repatriation of refugees is probably linked to the demobilization of the Nicaraguan contras, because once the rebels lay down their weapons the reasons why these people left their country will no longer exist.

However, he stressed that the repatriation of refugees is totally voluntary.

He said that small groups of Nicaraguans have arrived at the refugee camps in the past few days from Honduran towns, particularly from Las Troncos and Cifuentes.

Garcia Turcios also said that delegations from Honduras, El Salvador, and the UNHCR will meet in San Salvador on 4 and 5 October to discuss the repatriation of approximately 10,000 Salvadoran refugees who are currently in Honduras.

According to Garcia Turcios, the Salvadoran refugees have expressed to Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani their desire to return to their country. However, they have demanded certain conditions, such as the nonparticipation of Army troops and the end of military conscription, among other things.

Garcia Turcios said that once these 10,000 Salvadoran refugees leave, only about 3,000 will remain in the Mesa Grande, Buenos Aires, and San Antonio camps.

There are approximately 17,000 refugees in Honduras, including Salvadorans, Nicaraguans, and Guatemalans.

Some 900 of those refugees are Nicaraguan Indians who are more willing than the "ladinos" to accept the repatriation.

Garcia Turcios said that the refugees installed in camps handled by the UNHCR do not represent a problem for Honduras, but there are some 3,000 others who entered the country illegally or legally and are causing damage to the ecology, are engaged in criminal activities, or are displacing Honduran manpower.

Nicaragua

President Ortega's 25 Sep Nomination Speech

PA250901128V Managua Radio Sordini;
in Spanish 0200 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra on accepting the nomination as presidential candidate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front at the Non-aligned Plaza in Managua—live]

[Text] Good evening, Nicaraguan brothers. The People's Grand Convention, which took place today, was another display of popular democracy, of true democracy, of the democracy we won 19 July 1979 and that we have enforced for the past 10 years.

We approved today the Sandinist National Liberation Front's [FSLN] platform for struggle. It is a platform we will defend during this election process so that we can implement it as of 25 February, when the FSLN and the Nicaraguan people will achieve another victory against imperialism. [applause]

The elections are no more than a means of confronting the imperialist policy. The Yankees, who attempted to save Sumnerism, were trampled by the people's fury. By the people's struggle led by the FSLN, the Yankees, who attempted to kill the 1984 electoral process, were defeated by the Nicaraguan people's resolve. The Yankees, who have attempted to destroy the revolution over the past 10 years, have been defeated by the heroic Nicaraguan people's firm resolve, and once again we will defeat the Yankees in the elections on 25 February 1990. [applause, chanting of slogans]

The platform we approved today shows the FSLN's political resolve to continue guaranteeing the security and stability of our peace and to achieve total peace. This confrontation has lasted 10 years. Now we must wait—not patiently but actively—for the culmination of the election process in the next few months. With the FSLN's victory in this election battle, we will secure total peace for all the Nicaraguan people, because weapons will no longer be coming from the United States. The United States will no longer have any excuses to continue attacking Nicaragua and its people. Then we will have better days.

The past 10 years of revolutionary struggle have been better than those of the past. They have been days full of sacrifice and struggle. The days that followed the revolution's victory were better days. We built those days in the midst of difficulties. We built schools, health centers, houses, and dignity for all the Nicaraguan people. That is why we are here.

On this heroic night we must remember and pay homage to the heroes and martyrs who made the revolution's victory possible and who made it possible for us to defend the revolution during these 10 years of confrontation against the U.S. aggression.

For our heroes and martyrs, we will continue struggling. We will continue fighting, and we will continue to win. [Crowd shouts: "Long live the FSLN. Viva"]

For our heroes and martyrs, we have pledged today to implement a platform that guarantees to all Nicaraguans that as long as the FSLN is in power, everything will get better. [applause]

This afternoon and tonight, we have also nominated the candidates for deputies to the National Assembly, after a very rich discussion that was a truly extraordinary example of democracy. We could even say that this people's assembly had reached the point of becoming undemocratic, because it was reaching the point of democratic excesses that was imperiling the entire process that had been followed in proposing candidates for deputy. We used this people's assembly to listen to the people's representatives, and everyone spoke freely, and expressed his opinions freely, and this assembly took place openly. We did not meet in secret, in black masses, as other politicians used to do in other eras and as they continue to do at present. We did not meet in a foreign embassy to discuss the political platform or to decide who would be the candidates for president, vice president, or deputies. Instead, once again, we have had another Face the People meeting to decide who will be the candidates for deputies, who will represent the people in these elections. [Crowd shouts: "People's government, people's government"]

Some days ago—about 3 days ago—we visited a very small town named San Jose de Monte Redondo, near Masatepe. It is located approximately 7 km from the paved highway on a bad road. That little town did not have street lights. It received street lights for a Face the

People meeting. Since the INE [Nicaraguan Institute of Energy] installed the street lights, the people asked that they be left there, and we told the INE. The street lights will remain in San Jose.

While we were there, we talked with the peasants, who stood up with great dignity and firmness and outlined their problems and criticized the government's actions, and also the party's performance. However, what impressed me most—I believe that it impressed all of us who were presiding over the event—was the presentation made by the Jinotepa Institute. A delegation from the school band and the gymnastics team of the Jinotepa Institute came. San Jose has an institute which has up to the 7th grade. The group performed there, among the trees, and in the bushes, in that pleasant climate, among the peasants who were looking on, and presented a very beautiful exhibition of gymnastics that was based on the theme of the song Love Story. I told them: This is what we have been doing here. The revolution is writing a love story. We have been writing a love story over these past 10 years, and we will continue to write a love story [prolonged applause] with all the people, with the workers, with the laborers, with the peasants, a love story that defends the country's dignity, a love story that defends the people's right to education, a love story that defends the children's right to life. A love story that reaffirms women's rights, the people's government, true democracy, pluralism, a mixed economy, and security for all. A love story that the FSLN will continue writing, because everything will get better. Everything will get better. Everything will get better, [repeats himself] because that is what the people want. Free fatherland! [crowd shouts "Orr death"]

Ortega Comments on Meeting With Carter

PA1809040789 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
0237 GMT 18 Sep 89

[Interview with President Daniel Ortega by unidentified reporters, 18 September at the Intercontinental Hotel in Managua—recorded]

[Text] [Ortega] We talked more about President Carter's participation in this electoral process. He has heard the opposition parties express their concerns. He has also learned that there is an opposition group that refuses to abide by the agreement signed during the meeting at the Olaf Palme Convention Center. At that time all the political parties and the government signed an agreement. The opposition is now saying that the contra prisoners must be released immediately. Yet, during the meeting at the Olaf Palme Convention Center, they agreed that the contras would be released after the demobilization. Their release is conditioned to the demobilization of the contras. I think that it is important to call on all the opposition parties that signed the agreement to act seriously and with responsibility and abide by what they signed and refrain from opening

debate on this issue and disregard what they signed. They have to abide by what they signed just like we are abiding by what we signed.

[Reporter] What does President Carter think of all this?

[Ortega] He is here gathering information. He is hearing other opinions and viewpoints, and tomorrow he will be meeting with LA PRENSA representatives.

[Reporter] Will you meet again with him? Will Mr. Carter's group remain here in Nicaragua?

[Ortega] He will be in contact with the government and he will also be in contact with the opposition parties. He will be in contact with the Supreme Electoral Council just as he will be in contact with the OAS and [words indistinct]

Wage Increases for Some Sectors Announced

PA1209211589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1943 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has announced a series of incremental wage increases beginning in October. These wage increases will benefit the teachers, health workers, and other sectors in the budget. The increase will equal 30 percent and the first increase will occur in October. It will be for the teachers. President Ortega made this announcement during a meeting with the Education Consultation Council.

[Begin Ortega recording] We are reviewing the wages sectors that we believe are the most affected. That is, the wage scale for teachers, health workers, and other government workers.

Taking this just demand being made by the teachers into consideration—they are demanding better wages—we are going to implement a wage readjustment for all teachers as of October. We are also going to readjust the wages of the health workers. This will be done in November, and the readjustment for the other sectors will be done in December. As you well know, we cannot disburse the whole lump sum at one time. We must do it in stages.

We are going to adjust the wages of those who need it the most, that is, the teachers. Others also need wage adjustments, but teachers need it the most. We will adjust their wages first.

We asked our comrade finance minister to make some estimates pertaining to a 30 percent wage adjustment for teachers in October. We want to know what this 30 percent wage adjustment will mean. [end recording]

Comuniquo States: No Conscription Until 1990

PA1209220789 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1954 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Communiquo issued by the Defense Ministry on 20 September in Managua—read by unidentified speaker.]

[Text] A Defense Ministry communique today denied some distorted reports on the restoration of the military conscription for the Military Patriotic Service (SMP). The Defense Ministry communique sent to the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) president reaffirms that conscription will resume in 1990 after the presidential elections. Here is the communique:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] Year of the 17th anniversary, Managua, Free Nicaragua, September 23, 1989.

Dr. Mariano Fiallos, Supreme Electoral Council President:

Dear Dr. Fiallos, The Defense Ministry has learned through the various media about interpretations, and in some cases distorted reports and manipulation of the national agreements—signed on 4 August 1989 by Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of the Republic of Nicaragua, and the representatives of the legally registered political parties—regarding the restoration of conscription for the SMP. Seeking to favorably contribute to the development of the electoral process the Defense Ministry believes it necessary to clarify the following:

1. We reaffirm the validity of Defense Ministry Communique No. 9, dated 3 August 1989 in which our institution openly reported the measures ensuring full compliance with the agreement. The communique clearly establishes that the reconstitution of conscription for the SMP only affects the category of active military service. In other words, for citizens from 17- to 25-years-old who have been requested to join the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) for a 2 year period, as established by the law.

2. To ensure the strict compliance of the 4 August 1989 agreements, the last conscription for the SMP was conducted from 15 to 30 August 1989. Activities scheduled for the rest of the year have been suspended. The next conscription has been scheduled for March 1990.

3. The Defense Ministry clarifies that the mobilization for reserve military service is being fulfilled according to the EPS regular annual plans.

4. We reaffirm that according to the SMP and according to the Defense Ministry plans, the registration of youths born in 1977 will be conducted in November 1989.

5. EPS personnel, through the prevention groups, normally continue to conduct operations to search for and prosecute active military members who, after being assigned to the military before 1 September, have committed the crime of defecting or have committed other crimes punished by military penal law.

In order to air justified special cases or claims on the fulfillment of the 4 August 1989 agreement, we believe the CSE and the regional electoral councils should be in charge of analyzing the official petitions presented by political parties to be submitted to the Defense Ministry.

Communique No. 9

The Defense Ministry reports that:

1. In compliance with the agreement signed by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of the Republic of Nicaragua, within the framework of the 4 August National Dialogue, the calendar for conscription for the active military service and other aspects referring to the Law on SMP have been changed. This guarantees that conscription for the active military service will not be carried out during the months of the upcoming electoral campaign.

2. Revised Calendar

3. The last phase of recruitment for this year for the active military service will be implemented in August. The total number of personnel to be recruited for this last phase will be 1,500 people.

In the months of September, October, November, and December 1989, and in January and February 1990, there will be no conscription for active military service. The first phase of conscription for 1990 will begin after 25 February 1990.

The registration for the SMP for 1977 youth will be implemented at the national level in November 1989. Youths who have registered will be part of the group that will begin their active military service during 1990, after February 25.

Demobilization of Youths Who Have Fulfilled SMP

Upon completion of the 2 years of active military service, 4,500 youth will be demobilized during the period from September 1989 to February 1990.

Signed by:

Defense Ministry Public and Foreign Relations Section

FDN Leader Calero Announces Return to Country

PL2299/72299 *Mañana Radio Católica* (in Spanish)
11:30 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Report by (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) Henríquez from (word indistinct) officers]

[Text] Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, founder of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) and director of the Nicaraguan Resistance, has announced his return to Nicaragua. He said that he is coming to work for the National Opposition Union slate, comprised of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and Virgilio Godínez.

FDN Presents Platform, Makes Promises

PL2299/72299 *Plaza AFP* (in Spanish) 11:41 GMT
22 Sep 89

[Text] Managua, 22 Sep (AFP)—The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FDN) promises Nicaraguans that if they win the general elections in February, "everything will be better and there will be well-being" because "roads, schools, health and sports centers will be built," there will be "better salaries, jobs, food, medicine, clothing, and shoes."

The FSLN offer—the opposition blames the FSLN for the chaos in the economy—is contained in a document called "Platform for an Electoral Struggle (1990-1997)" which will be discussed during a party convention on 25 September [as received].

Candidates for president, vice president, for the National Assembly, and for municipalities will be designated during this convention.

FSLN sources—the FSLN has been the ruling party for the last 10 years—take it for granted that President Daniel Ortega and Vice President Sergio Ramirez will be ratified as candidates for the ruling government party.

Ortega and Ramirez will have to face the National Opposition Union (UNO), an alliance of 14 opposition parties which has nominated Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, director of the newspaper LA PRENSA, and Virginio Guezo, a former labor minister.

In their 20-chapter program, the Sandinists give assurances that they will maintain and enhance the agrarian reform, warning that no land will be returned "to the old landowners or to the latifundist system."

The Sandinists also say that the Army, which has about 70,000 soldiers and several thousand reserve troops "will be adjusted to Nicaragua's defense needs."

The document does not give any details on the Armed Forces, which the UNO has promised they will "disarm and then send the arms and tanks to the museum."

The program states, "We won and we move on. Peace is here, the future is ahead of us. Now we are going to vote for the FSLN for peace, for well-being and for the future so everything becomes better. We are going to vote for a dignified and honest government, a government of the people, your government. With the same hands we used to build peace we are going to build the future, your future, and everything will be better."

The official proposal adds that the new government promises to stop inflation (in 1988 it reached 36,000 percent), stabilize prices, improve salaries, create more jobs in the countryside and the city, and improve supplies of food, medicine, clothing and shoes.

The Sandinists also offer "more transport, more and better roads, schools and health centers, more potable water services, more sports fields and peoples' recreational centers, as well as better possibilities for building and repairing houses."

The Sandinists offer to build 70,000 "peoples' houses" during the 7 years [as received] of the new administration, which should take office 2 months after the election.

However, the ruling party program does not say how it will obtain the money for rebuilding the economy, which the opposition claims is in ruins.

For the Atlantic coast area, the Sandinists propose "strengthening the autonomy process, guaranteeing communities complete respect for their traditions and religious beliefs." The Atlantic coast area is inhabited by some 300,000 Miskito Indians and blacks who always lived isolated from the Pacific coast, and where Indian guerrillas emerged in 1981.

The Sandinist program also states that the new government "will continue struggling to establish relations on an equal basis" with the United States "without accepting any meddling or aggression and destabilization attempts."

Opposition Leader Enrique Bolanos Interviewed

FBI/DOJ/INM/Managua BARRICAADA in Spanish
19 Sep 89 pp 2-4

[Interview with Enrique Bolanos, opposition leader and president of the Nicaraguan Higher Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP), by an unidentified BARRICAADA reporter—date and place not given]

[Text] Bolanos: I know it was very difficult to pass the UNO [National Opposition Union] vote. I did not think they would accept me. I had my reasons for thinking that way.

BARRICAADA: Why did you think they would not accept you?

Bolanos: There is a very suspicious presence of the Sandinist Front in all this. Within UNO, there are people who are opposition during the day and then at night they sleep with the Sandinist Front. Do you think Eli Altamirano [leader of the Communist Party of Nicaragua] would have accepted me as the UNO presidential candidate?

BARRICAADA: What you are saying is incredible. We could perhaps justify what you are saying if you were referring to family ties between opposition people and Sandinists. Who does not have such ties?

Bolanos: I do not? I do not have those ties.

BARRICAADA: Why did you participate in such a suspicious candidacy then?

Bolanos: If you only knew how difficult it was. Some people told me: "Let us go ahead and launch an independent candidacy." And others told me: "You have to lose to the majority." I chose the best option possible.

BARRICAADA: Do you think the U.S. Government would have accepted such a dubious candidacy?

Bolanos: "Uhh, you know how things are. The United States is naive. The United States is unaware of what is happening here. Carter came here on 18 September. He was late because he had been meeting with the president. We confirmed our theory then: The United States

does not know what is happening here. The Sandinistas have Carter eating out of their hand.

BARRICAIDA: Did you go to the UNO elections willing to go until the end?

Bolanos: I did not go to the UNO elections. They took me to the elections and I allowed them to present my name with the condition that if I was elected by UNO, they would agree to go into the election process with the firm intention of winning the elections. I refused to play the role that some parties are playing. Those parties know they will not win the elections. But who can stop them from wanting to tell their grandchildren that they were presidential candidates?

BARRICAIDA: Do you think the candidates elected by UNO represent the businessmen grouped around COSEP?

Bolanos: They do not have to represent COSEP. They represent the entire society. They represent all Nicaraguans.

BARRICAIDA: Do you think Mrs Violeta [Chamorro] fulfills the personal qualifications to be the opposition presidential candidate?

Bolanos: Of course. She is a Nicaraguan citizen over 25 years of age.

BARRICAIDA: What do you think of the way in which she calls herself Violeta Chamorro?

Bolanos: The truth is she is Violeta Barrios de Chamorro as is the style here in Nicaragua. My wife's name is Lina de Bolanos.

BARRICAIDA: And should your daughter Cristina sign Cristina de Lacayo?

Bolanos: It would be interesting to ask her that question. I do not know.

BARRICAIDA: What is COSEP, an association or a party?

Bolanos: It is a pressure group, nothing else.

BARRICAIDA: To be a pressure group, COSEP has certainly played a leading political role within the opposition.

Bolanos: It happens that a gentleman called Carlos Marx decided that on a certain year, when Sandinism arrived in Nicaragua, COSEP would be its number one enemy. That is not my fault.

BARRICAIDA: But COSEP is not represented in the elections?

Bolanos: Neither are dentists and doctors.

BARRICAIDA: Would you be willing to cooperate with the country's economic reconstruction if the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] wins the elections?

[Bolanos:] That depends. During the early negotiations between the Sandinist government and cotton growers, I told Doctor Ramirez that if it was logical for the man wearing the cotton growers' hat to ask for more and more, it was a big mistake for the man wearing the government hat to implement the policy of the more you spend the more I will give you because that policy will lead to large scale inflation.

Show me a cotton grower who has lost or gone bankrupt in 10 years, show me a coffee producer who has lost or gone broke as it used to happen before and still happens in all healthy economies. In all economies, bankruptcies purify, cleanse, and bring prosperity.

[BARRICAIDA:] If the FSLN wins the elections, would you agree with the continuation of the war against Nicaragua?

[Bolanos:] That would depend on how the FSLN won the elections.

[BARRICAIDA:] What if it wins the elections in a clean manner?

[Bolanos:] Ha, ha! If your aunt had wheels she would be a bicycle. I do not see how the FSLN can win, it does dirty things every day.

[BARRICAIDA:] How is it that you have accepted the elections if you know beforehand that they will not be clean?

[Bolanos:] That is the question.

[BARRICAIDA:] There will be international observers to guarantee them.

[Bolanos:] Oh, yes. Of course!

[BARRICAIDA:] Do you not believe that Carter will be a suitable observer?

[Bolanos:] Ha, ha, ahem... I will not comment, my silence is eloquent.

[BARRICAIDA:] Do you believe the United States agreed with the Central American presidents signing the contra demobilization agreement in Tela?

[Bolanos:] I do not know.

[BARRICAIDA:] Do you believe the U.S. policy toward Nicaragua has been consistent?

[Bolanos:] I do not know what the United States is doing and I do not care.

[BARRICAIDA:] It has been said that you were annoyed by the U.S. Government's support of Donia Violeta.

[Bolanos:] Great Conf! Ha, ha, imagine that. I only laugh at such rumors.

[BARRICADA] It has been said that you remarked that the Violeta-Vergara ticket is the best way to lose the elections. Is that true?

[Botanos] I never said that.

[BARRICADA] Do you believe it?

[Botanos] Well, one cannot always say what one thinks. I think so many things.

ONUCA Mission Chief: Visit 'Satisfactory'

PA2300014489 Managua: Sistema Nandinista
Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Sep 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] General Pericles Ferreira, mission chief of the Group of UN Observers to Central America, ONUCA, has described his 6-day visit to Nicaragua as very satisfactory and positive.

Gen Ferreira met with Nicaraguan Major General Joaquin Cendra today.

During its verification mission, the ONUCA members visited the entire Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border, including the Gulf of Fonseca.

[Ferreira] "Our work in Nicaragua has been very good. I can tell you that it had been one of our best verification missions in the area. We received all necessary support from the government authorities."

Gen Ferreira explained that ONUCA will have observation posts in the five Central American countries.

[Ferreira] "We have to make a general study and compare the various places to decide on the best place to establish a [words indistinct] whether in Nicaragua, Honduras, or El Salvador. We will do that study toward the end of our mission. We have a general idea about establishing posts in all the border areas, but we do not have the exact, definite location."

Ferreira explained that the peace forces will be deployed 20 or 25 days after the UN Security Council decides on the kind of work ONUCA will perform.

[Ferreira] "In our report to the UN secretary general, we will present a specific idea on the work we will have to conduct here."

Major Joaquin Cendra said that the ONUCA mission was given all necessary cooperation so that it could conduct its work in Nicaragua.

[Cendra] "We provided the necessary cooperation so that the ONUCA mission could make its assessment of the situation and present a report to the UN secretary general, who will subsequently present it to the UN Security Council."

The ONUCA mission will present its report to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on 29 September at the latest.

Central Bank Devalues Currency; Complaints Aired

PA2300129089 Managua: Radio Corporacion
in Spanish 2000 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Nicaraguan workers are suffering the effects of the devaluations. We are affected by price increases, and we pay the consequences, say citizens who have been polled.

Last night the Central Bank announced another devaluation of the official currency by changing its par value. As a result, basic prices of staples have increased. The authorities are saying that this devaluation is really no big deal, that it is only a mini-devaluation. The truth is that the workers, who earn little, are suffering from poor Sandinista management.

Our journalist Ernesto Ramon Garcia today polled the citizens. Workers and housewives are troubled by the high cost of living. They said that although the price of fuels such as gasoline did not go up today, the price of food did. Here is the special report filed today by our journalist on the streets for the "5 o'clock Sharp" newscast.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] Everyone is aware of this situation. Even my young [daughter] knows what is going on. She knows that we are virtually starving of hunger in this country [words indistinct].

[Second unidentified speaker] I have problems because of the price of sugar. I make ice cream and drinks, but my revenues have dropped because the price of sugar is too high.

[Third unidentified speaker] The situation is very difficult. I cannot buy very much. I try to get as much as I can, but prices have increased. I cannot buy what I need because I do not have enough money. Just look what I was able to purchase. A pound of rice sells for 6,000 pesos, a pound of beans stands at 8,000 pesos. People with children are doing even worse. We are not earning enough. We are facing a critical situation. We do not earn enough even to buy milk for the children, not even to buy our daily meals.

[Garcia] How many days do your husband's wages last?

[Third unidentified speaker] At the most, 1 week. In order to survive, we eat on some days and do not on others. [end recording]

Panama

Rodriguez Plans To Address United Nations 3 Oct

PA209004489 Panama City: *Televisión Nacional*
in Spanish 2:44 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Interview with acting Deputy Foreign Minister Norberto Tejeda by Nelson Notario, date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tejeda] Panamanian Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez will go to New York on 1 October and will address the UN General Assembly on 3 October.

Represented by President Rodriguez, Panama will denounce before this international forum the U.S. Government's brutal aggression against the Panamanian Government and people. As you know, for the past 2 years the United States has implemented a cruel financial and economic blockade on the Panamanian people which has brought impoverishment and has created difficulties in solving the problems of the poorest Panamanian class. This is a U.S. attempt to pressure Panama and the Panamanian people in order to achieve its objective, which is defeating the Panamanian Government and ousting General Manuel Antonio Noriega, so that groups favorable to U.S. policy can take power.

[Notario] The U.S. State Department has included top Panamanian Government officials in a blacklist of persons who cannot enter the United States. Do you think that President Rodriguez will be able to go to the United States?

[Tejeda] The UN Charter specifies the commitment by the host country—in this case the United States, where the UN Headquarters is located—to grant visas to all those on official visits to the United Nations. This is President Rodriguez' situation. He is not going in order to visit the United States, but to speak at the United Nations. Therefore, the United States is obliged to grant visas to President Rodriguez and the members of his delegation.

Rodriguez Addresses State Council on Appointments

PA2209221189 Panama City: *CRITIC 4* in Spanish
22 Sep 89 pp 1-11

[Text] On 21 September, Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez said that "the appointment of the 510 honorable corregimiento representatives and 19 councilmen is a firm step in the consolidation of government structures."

Addressing members of the General State Council, who included General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, Rodriguez said that "this is part of our policy aimed at making our Republic an expression of participatory democracy."

President Rodriguez said that "one cannot talk about democratization if the country's various geographic sectors do not share in the government and if, as a consequence, government actions do not benefit them."

Furthermore, he explained "It is our objective to improve the role of the corregimiento representative, to make the necessary corrections so that his image in the community will always be positive."

According to the president, the new corregimiento representatives and councilmen will be summoned to a meeting to be held at the Atlapa Convention Center on 29 September. There they will receive instructions and exchange viewpoints to coordinate relations between the central government and the municipal administrations.

Following is the text of President Rodriguez' speech.

With the appointment of the corregimiento representatives and councilmen, we fulfill one of the most important commitments made—to give the country a provisional government as stated in Agreement No. 1 of the General State Council of 31 August 1989.

We have already appointed the mayors and governors. Today we are taking steps to normalize the work of the municipal councils and the activities of the corregimiento representatives.

All this is part of our policy aimed at making our Republic an expression of participatory democracy based on the democratic actions of the fundamental political cells of the Panamanian state. One cannot talk about democratization if the country's various geographic sectors do not share in the government and if, as a consequence, government actions do not benefit them.

The municipal councils have been established on the basis of the role of the corregimiento representatives and additional councilmen so that they will be appropriate representatives of the community with enough prominence and leadership to give authority and effectiveness to their delicate mission.

We have tried to make a conscientious selection following careful consultations and assessments.

We hope that the people appointed in the additional municipal council posts we created will fulfill their tasks responsibly, as demanded by the country and the current circumstances. We fully trust they will accomplish their mission.

By appointing the corregimiento representatives and the councilmen, we are making valid our intention to strengthen the people's power, which, as one of the most important postulates of Torrijismo, must be developed.

As we have already stated, it is our objective to improve the role of the corregimiento representative, making the necessary corrections so that his image in the community will always be positive.

In this administration, the *corregimiento* representative will not only be a medium to convey the problems of his community to the central government, but an effective tool in the practical solution of the country's social and economic problems.

The salaries for *corregimiento* representatives and councilmen will be established in accordance with the country's fiscal situation. They will not be increased when representatives serve as councilmen, because we know that their greatest reward is to serve the nation in the most difficult moments of its history.

As a complement, all that remains to be done is to install the community boards and the local boards, and special efforts must be devoted to that.

On 29 September, the representatives and councilmen will be summoned to a meeting at Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City to receive instructions and exchange views on coordinating the relations between the central government and the local administrations.

Gentlemen members of the General State Council, we are certain that with the approval of the pertinent procedures and the appointment of the *corregimiento* representatives and councilmen, we have taken a firm step toward the consolidation of our democratic government structure. Finally, I want to reiterate our determination to fulfill all the commitments of the provisional government. Thank you.

U.S. Troops Actions in Panama City Reported

P42600015409 Panama City: *Televisión Nacional* in Spanish 2384 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] U.S. troops this morning engaged in new acts of provocation in Panama City, violating the Torrijos-Carter treaties. The violating and threatening actions by the U.S. soldiers were filmed by the foreign press accredited in Panama. We now bring you a report by international reporter [Radio Havana] Nelson Notario, who was kind enough to provide this report to Tevedos Reports [title of newscast].

[Begin Notario recording] On this rainy morning, Saturday, 23 September 1989, the U.S. troops stationed on the Panama Canal banks continue to provoke the Panamanian people. Panama continues to be threatened by U.S. troops. U.S. troops are touring some roads near the canal area. The Panama Defense Forces troops have taken up defensive positions near the central command of these troops.

From our vehicle, we are following the Hummers. Perhaps there is too much noise in the audio, but we wanted to record it so that you could see the arrogance of the U.S. soldiers here in Panama. We are following them, and they have been pointing their guns at us, and at the Panamanian citizens who are peacefully walking the Panama City streets.

This is one more arrogant action, among the many carried out by the U.S. troops stationed on the Yankee bases on the Panama Canal banks. These U.S. bases are in Panama, allegedly for the purpose of protecting the Panama Canal, but what they really do is threaten the Panamanian people and other Latin American peoples. That is the truth of the situation prevailing today in Panama.

We are broadcasting this for you directly from the Panama City streets. We are now in a reverted area, just a few meters from the canal area. We are following three U.S. armored vehicles that are driving in this city.

From the Panama City streets, following the U.S. troops that are once again provoking the Panamanian people, this is a report by cameraman Toyo Gomez, technician Manuel Muniz, and this is Nelson Notario Castro. [end recording]

Meanwhile, another violation by the U.S. Army took place on 21 September, when their troops traveled for 4 km on the Transisthmian Highway in Colon and moved near the Panama Refinery and the Bahia Las Minas Thermoelectrical Plant. Several U.S. military trucks, led by an armored vehicle, crossed by the highway adjacent to the thermoelectrical plant that the IIEEC [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] operates in Bahia Las Minas at the entrance to the Panama Refinery. During this act of provocation, the U.S. troops also used helicopters that flew over this sector of Colon Province.

PWC Sanctions Contrasted to Panama Sanctions

P42600011009 Panama City: *LA REPUBLICA* in Spanish 23 Sep 89 p 4

[Mario Augusto Rodriguez column: "From Here to China. "]

[Text] According to reports from Washington, the differences in the "sanctions" the Bush administration applied in the PWC and Panama were questioned once again. And once again it is the newsmen covering the White House and the State Department who cannot understand why the government of their country is extremely harsh and cruel with the people of Panama and, in contrast, so kind and considerate with the Chinese people. The United States has described the Asiatic giant as a communist dictatorship with a government so extremely totalitarian that, according to the White House, it has drowned in a sea of blood the demand for democracy of hundreds of thousands—perhaps millions—of students, workers, intellectuals, and even housewives. However, that government is only applying moderate sanctions, limited to military aid, so as not to hurt those people. Meanwhile, it applies "war measures" on Panama, chiefly aimed at the great majority of low-income people.

I have on several occasions voiced the view that the United States, like any other nation, is entitled to adopt

its own foreign policy based on what it deems its best interests. I do not deny the U.S. Government's right to do what it pleases with its economic resources. If that country decides to give away dozens, hundreds, or thousands of millions to certain governments, that is something only its people are entitled to criticize or debate. I can think of any one thing or another on whether it is right or wrong to earmark those resources for wars in Vietnam or Afghanistan, for the Salvadoran Army, or for the Nicaraguan contras. However, it is up to the U.S. public to approve or disapprove of the course, aims, or decisions of its government. Just as I ask for my country's right to its free determination, I respect the free determination of any other country.

I do not believe, however, that the United States or any other country, regardless of how big a "superpower" it may be, has the right to use force, influence, or power to take away from another nation the resources that legitimately belong to it, resources that have been expressly recognized by the sequestering superpower. The millions of dollars confiscated from the Panamanian state bank, the payments and dividends from the Panama Canal Commission and the pipeline, the taxes U.S. companies should legally pay on profits earned in our country and with our resources, especially taxes which U.S. companies should legally pay on profits earned in our country and with our resources, and especially the taxes deducted from the paychecks of Panamanians, which are being withheld and are part of the salaries earned by those Panamanians, are not the property of the United States and therefore cannot be handled or withheld by the United States.

I do not know how the arbitrary withholding of other people's money can be termed as "economic sanctions." This money does not belong to Mr. DeValle, Mr. Solis Palma, Mr. Noriega, or any one individual in particular. This money belongs to the nation and the Panamanian people, and it is being taken away from the education and health sectors. It is money that could be used to feed a nation that is not an enemy of the United States, and has not been or is not at war with that country, a nation that has been extremely loyal to and cooperative with the United States. However, Mr. Bush believes it is just, democratic, and moral to sanction these people, while he adopts Christian considerations toward a government that has been accused of massacring many thousands of people who had tried to imitate U.S. democracy.

Today's thought is this: I declare that justice is nothing other than the convenience of the stronger.

Deputy Comptroller Says Revenues Sufficient

PA220904 0800 Panama City: *Televisión Nacional*
in Spanish 2:00 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Abdul Julio, deputy comptroller of the Republic, has said that despite the serious deterioration in the

national economy caused by the U.S. economic aggression against the country, the National Treasury maintains its revenues at levels which provide for state's main activities.

[Begin recording] [Julio] The revenues—as usual during this period—continue below normal. However, these revenues are enough to maintain a minimum of state economic activity in some sectors, including the social services sector, which is a priority for the national government.

[Reporter] Do you foresee any adjustment in the government's payroll due to the economic crisis situation the country is presently undergoing?

[Julio] The General Comptroller's Office has always maintained a level which allows it to adjust the government payroll and bring it in line with the revenues and reality the country is now facing. [end recording]

Labor Minister Interviewed on Situation

PA220916 2500 Panama City: *Domestic Service*
in Spanish 1645 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] In an exclusive interview with this station, George Fisher, the new Labor and Social Welfare Minister, comments on his first days at this complex ministry.

[Begin Fisher Recording] I congratulate you on your great efforts to keep the people well informed. Greetings to everyone from the Labor Ministry, which is struggling daily to give the workers and citizens some social justice. We have found that the ministry has few material resources, but vast valuable human resources.

This institution handles complicated and delicate matters that require prompt attention and permanent vigilance in maintaining social balance and the workers' rights, creating a climate where positive investment can progress and prosper, and creating an image where national interests are defended every day. We are sure that soon the ministry will start a new program directed toward women who have been sidelined, and reorganization of the ministry designed to streamline it, and to get the most out of the material and human resources it has.

We are starting a program of personally meeting with each of the labor unions and federations, and if time permits, we plan to meet with each union in this country to get acquainted with their leaders and to learn of their problems and impressions about our ministry, about what we are doing wrong and what we are doing right, so that we can straighten things out in the best possible way. [end recording]

Concerning his position as to the movement of solidarity that has begun in some enterprises, he said:

[Begin Fisher recording] My first impression about what I have heard from labor leaders makes me think that above all, it is a problem of union effort. Each worker

needs to know his rights and know the country's laws. He must have direct contact with his labor leaders, to develop trust in them, and not abdicate his responsibilities by completely depending on the charity or goodwill of social organizations or the employer, who one day is very positive, and the next day very negative. I believe that the worker needs to be fully aware of his role within national production and the economy.

For the time being, the problem of solidarity cannot be handled directly here at the ministry. It is a problem that arises at the worksite, and is the first challenge to the union leaders. According to workers' rights, laws and regulations cannot be replaced by other types of organizations. That is the ministry's position at this time.

There is a program designed to complement the knowledge that the worker receives from fragmentary news, which might be presented in a sensationalist way. He can be the victim of rumors or false interpretations. He dedicates a lot of time to his work and sometimes he does not get home in time to hear the news, or does not keep up with the news. The program is designed to complement this information with solid, true reports from an authority on the matter. The subjects to be chosen will always be national topics, of civic value to improve his knowledge of economic and social factors that affect him or in which he will have to adopt decisions in the future.

Up to now we have had few talks with employers, because we are just beginning. We have met with a positive attitude by the employers. Those we have talked to do not persecute their workers. They have cooperated during this crisis by not firing workers and not reducing their work hours. They have group contracts and talks with workers. We have met with them to congratulate them, and to learn their viewpoints. We have a positive impression of those employers.

I believe that there are other enterprises that should try to get the loyalty and appreciation of their employees as a permanent working condition. In cases that come to us for official decisions, it will depend on an audit conducted by the Labor Ministry, which gives us figures showing the situation. If we find that it is true that there are enterprises that are in a position to improve their workers' conditions, then we would start direct actions so that the workers would benefit from the enterprise's boom, because these workers have contributed toward the enterprise's well-being.

The government, as the employer of the Labor Ministry employees, has done a tremendous job during the period that we called the revolutionary process, and now the new republic, in giving government employees unprecedented job stability. Besides, during these times of aggression, the government, against all odds, has kept the government employees' job stability, and has tried to maintain conditions to allow them to carry out their tasks and take home pay to meet their needs. The government's philosophy has always been for worker

participation in debates and awareness of matters that affect them, as in programs to improve their work, to prevent injustices in relations with the workers. We would be the first, as Labor Ministry, to comply with the task of maintaining good relations, and to keep the worker informed of matters that could affect him and give the degree of participation allowed by the efficiency and fulfillment of the ministry's tasks. (end recording)

Dignity Brigade Communique Warns 'Traitors'

*PACIFIC/789 Panama City: CRITH, Lat Spanish
18 Sep 89 p. 11*

[Communique issued by the Dignity Brigade Patriots' Coordination Command (COPACOMRID)—date and place not given]

[Text] COPACOMRID advises Panamanian citizens of the following:

1. The current political situation, framed within the sign of the new Republic and under the guidance of President Francisco Rodriguez, his government, Commander Manuel Antonio Noriega, and his General Staff, is satisfactory and calm. However, the U.S. aggression continues and has even been intensified. The aggression is now exerting pressure on countries that are allies of the empire to join the unfair steps through which the U.S. Government stubbornly seeks to impose its hegemonic, military might on Panama.

2. The Dignity Brigade comprised of 25 battalions of volunteer patriots, is on alert and will continue to be so until fulfillment of the Torrijos-Carter treaties is a reality, until the last U.S. soldier leaves Panamanian territory, and until the last vestige of the oligarchy disappears from our country.

3. COPACOMRID has instructed the Dignity Battalions' general staff to implement its expansion plans, because over the past few weeks many people have expressed to us their support and the battalions have received many requests from patriots who want to join them. These patriots understand the dimensions and the importance of the existence of this brigade.

4. Not one person has joined the brigade by force. The word volunteer excludes the unfair and vile accusations made by the traitors, who denigrate citizens with spongy leathers that frighten them, telling them that the Dignity Brigade recruits people by force. We reiterate that voluntariness and obligatoriness exclude each other, that all our brigade members have joined us out of patriotic conviction.

5. In view of the threat that the opposition supporters and their political organizations represent, and because of these attempts to break the security of the Panamanian State institutions, COPACOMRID asked Manuel Solis Palma, former minister in charge of the Presidency, to authorize and approve the creation of the committees

for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity (CODEPADE). In this first phase, the CODEPADE became the institutional expression of the Dignity Battalions. The CODEPADE's fulfilled glorious work of protection and surveillance of all state institutions thus dissuading the traitors from their intention of destabilizing national peace.

6. At present, each ministry, directorate, and autonomous institution has its own Defense Committee comprised of patriotic employees. Not a single employee has been forced to join the CODEPADE of the institution for which he works. The proof is that there is a percentage of public employees who have not joined CODEPADE. However, we know that these employees are being cautious about the spurious leaflets with which the opposition's traitors have disoriented them, and have even caused their initial interests in the CODEPADE's to change because of alleged threats and pressure by the COPACORRID. The traitors forged the signature of Commander Benjamin Colomares and circulated a surreptitious leaflet urging citizens and public employees to join the Dignity Brigade and the CODEPADE under penalty of removing them from their homes in government vehicles.

7. No Panamanian and no public employee has the obligation to join the Dignity Brigade or CODEPADE. Enrollment is absolutely voluntary and free; no political, institutional, civic, or military organization can force people to join the Dignity Brigade and CODEPADE's.

8. In view of the Panamanians' enthusiastic response, because many Panamanians went to the registration centers to join the Dignity Brigade, and in view of the massive participation of employees in the various CODEPADE's, COPACORRID has instructed the battalions's staff and CODEPADE coordinators to increase defense and security training activities to prepare the largest possible number of Panamanians for national resistance against aggression and betrayal.

9. The Dignity Battalions warn traitors that infiltration will have the most serious consequences and will be severely punished. The Dignity Battalions warn traitors to refrain from such adventures or face the battalions' patriotic fury.

10. Knowing that instead of convincing itself that the Panamanian people will not give up, U.S. imperialism will intensify its interventionist policy to evade the responsibilities established by the Torrijos-Carter treaties, and in response to the wise and provident Panamanian people, COPACORRID has instructed its general staff and the Dignity Battalions commanding forces to organize community CODEPADE's. These CODEPADE's will be comprised of neighborhood residents who will be responsible for preparing their communities for defense, security, and national resistance operations.

11. COPACORRID and the 20 battalions that are part of the Dignity Brigade thank Panamanians and their government for the way they have responded to their patriotic call over the past 18 months.

[Signed] Benjamin Colomares, commander.

Arturo Marquez, commander.

Enrique Thompson, commander.

Guillermo Ledezma Bradley, chief of the general staff.

Archangel Saint Michel Battalion.

Latin Liberation Battalion.

16 December Torrijos Commander Battalion.

Rosa Elena Landwehr Battalion.

Sovereignty Battalion.

Fatherland Battalion.

Tierra Sembrada Battalion.

Nelo Kantule Battalion.

Sapo Margot Sate Battalion.

Indian Chief Nemo Battalion.

205 Cocle Battalion.

Christopher Columbus Admiral Battalion.

Atacama Battalion.

Los Santos' Freedom Battalion.

Cholo Omar Battalion.

Tomas Armuelles Battalion.

Generational Victory Battalion.

Omar Torrijos Battalion.

Surveillance Commando Against Aggression.

Anciano Villalaz Battalion.

Government To Suggest Foreign Debt Renegotiation

PA/00021189 Panama City, I.A. REPUBLIC. A in Spanish.
22 Sep 89 pp. 1-3.

[Article by Garrett H. Gonetane D.]

[Text] Planning and Economic Welfare Minister Gustavo Gonzalez said that Panama will conduct negotiations with a group of creditor banks and suggest ways of renegotiating its debt based on the country's real income.

In an attempt to implement these efforts, Minister Gonzalez will travel to Washington on Sunday.

Gustavo Gonzalez said that during the meeting he will hold with the group of creditor banks he will inform them of the country's acute economic situation, which is a result of the U.S. Government's aggression against Panama.

Minister Gonzalez recalled that in April 1989 it was suggested that the debt be renegotiated and rescheduled according to our income, and for this reason "we are going to renegotiate payment of the debt according to our economic situation."

Minister Gonzalez also said that since 1987 Panama has been experiencing a serious crisis that has affected the country's economy considerably.

General State Council Appoints Representatives

PA270919PANNA Panama City: *Televisión Nacional*
in Spanish. 2:00 GMT. 21 Sep 89.

[Text] With the appointment of the country's 310 corregimientos representatives and 19 councilmen, the General State Council has established the means to administer the municipalities and corregimientos. With this measure, the General State Council complies with Resolution No. 7 of 31 August, which established that the appointed officials will remain in their posts until new elections are held.

The new corregimientos representatives and councilmen are individuals with backgrounds as community leaders, proven honest, and interest in social problems. The requirements borne in mind by the General State Council will guarantee the development of the communities, and promote the democratic and pluralistic participation of their inhabitants, as well as coordination in the municipal, provincial, and national programs.

The corregimientos representatives will not have immunity. They will be liable for criminal, civil, or administrative charges, with the exception of the opinions they express while carrying out their duties. With regard to their salaries, they will receive salaries established by the executive branch, which will bear in mind the economic circumstance of each municipality and the country's fiscal situation. The corregimientos representatives and councilmen will be sworn in by the governors of their provinces.

They have been called to a meeting in the Atlapa convention center on 29 September so they can receive guidelines and exchange opinions to improve and coordinate relations between the central and local governments.

The General State Council also decided that the mayors will appoint all the municipal officials, with the exception of the municipal treasurers, whose appointments will be different. In general, the municipal treasurers will be elected by the municipal councils. In the case of municipalities that are also the capitals of provinces and in San Miguelito, Chorrera, Aguadulce, Barú, Changuinola, and Chiriquí Grande Districts, the election of the municipal treasurers will be subject to the subsequent approval of the General State Council.

Opposition Youth Leader Reportedly Arrested

PA270919PANNA Panama City: *Quedamos Esperando*
in Spanish. 2:00 GMT. 27 Sep 89.

[Text] Relatives of Enrique Zarak, leader of the youth sector of the opposition Authentic Liberal Party (PLA), have reported that members of the Panama Defense Forces (PDF) arrested him today.

Lucas Zarak, former legislative candidate of the opposition in the annulled 7 May elections, said that his brother was arrested this morning when he was going to the PLA

offices in the center of Panama City. According to him, Enrique Zarak was intercepted by PDF security agents and taken to an unknown location. The reasons for the arrest are unknown.

An FDP officer said he was unaware that Enrique Zarak was arrested by military security members.

Opposition Leader's Hunger Strike Widely Cited

PA2709270900 Panama City: *CRIPPA*. 3 in Spanish.
22 Sep 89 p. 4.

[Political Columnist] column by Baltasar Román Acosta: "On Mr. Endara's Diet".

[Text] Editors Note: Since the moment "Cuchumbé" Endara announced he would carry out a "hunger strike" until his subversive goals are met, I have received hundreds of calls from my readers drawing my attention to the ridiculousness of his action. The letter I am publishing, however, contains several points that are worthy of consideration.

Dear Baltasar,

I listened with interest at a morning radio program announced that Mr. Guillermo Endara was declaring a hunger strike in the name of I do not know what.

I said to myself, "Good grief!" A few points should be made regarding this gentleman, and I decided to send these considerations to you so that he can think about them and meditate during his forced rest.

1. The truth is, Mr. Endara, that you need that diet because you are really overweight. It will be very good for your heart, cholesterol level, arthritis, and the other ills that afflict all chubby-cheeked people.

2. You must also stop eating so much so that our people, who are hungry and in need, may perhaps get some of the rich foods that have made you overweight.

3. To ensure the credibility of the diet you have imposed on yourself, you should not only maintain it in front of the cameras. You should distribute the money you normally spend on your huge supermarket bill among families living in poor neighborhoods, who truly need it.

4. Bless my soul. For true Christians, not those who applaud opulence, it is truly a capital sin to take one's life through starvation, if that is what you intend to do. Mr. Endara.

5. Meanwhile, how can you request "that a prison give you communion" (I imagine you were referring to Mr. MacCrath) when a human being who makes an attempt against his own life commits suicide and is therefore the perpetrator of a capital sin.

6. Moreover, I would very much like to know who put the idea into Mr. Endara's head. He should stop to consider that he is only a game pig manipulated by hidden interests, and once these interests are met, he will

be thrown aside like a rag, regardless of whether he is ugly, fat, or skinny by force. A rag in a garbage can.

If he wants to lose weight to please a little lady in preparation for future marriage, it may be worthwhile. We will celebrate the wedding of a "happy widower" with strong money supplied by "Laundromat" Ford (despite the weeping of the "Lazy Nue") [Ricardo Arias Calderon].

Price Control Office Freezes Products Prices

PAZ/20006/1989 Panama City: LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 29 Sep 89 p. 7

[Report by Marcela Munoz Aragon]

[Text] The Price Control Office (OCP) has decided to freeze the prices of staple products as one of the measures to confront the country's present crisis.

OCP Deputy Director Rodrigo Jaen noted that, in accordance with the policies announced by the Executive Branch, the prices of rice, dairy products, different kinds of meats, poultry, and fish, and also vegetables, have been frozen because they are part of Panamanians' daily diet.

Jaen noted that other sanitary products such as toilet paper and soap are also included on list of products that cannot be increased in price.

He added that the OCP has revised the prices of cooking oil and lard so be able to offer consumers alternatives to confront the crisis, and at the same time promote the use of products made in Panama. "In this manner, we will avoid a drain of foreign currency reserves," he said.

It must be specified that an inter-ministry commission formed by the ministries of commerce and industry, planning and economic policy, health, and the OCP are responsible for revision and correction of prices of basic food basket products.

In conclusion, the official stated, "With these actions, the government attempts to curb the crisis and the United States' economic aggression against us."

\$49 Million Owed in Light, Power Bills

PAZ/20006/1989 Panama City: LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 27 Sep 89 p. 7

[Text] Antonio Bruno, marketing coordinator of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification (IRHE), told LA REPUBLICA in an exclusive interview that private enterprises, residential sectors, and businesses and industries in general owe the institution more than \$49.3 million in light and power bills. This figure reflects the total up until August of this year. However, these amounts have been accumulating for several years.

Bruno said that a collection team that includes a judge has been formed, and the team is visiting those who have outstanding bills.

He stated that the IRHE is reaching pay agreements with customers because "the institution's policy is not aimed at strangling the consumer economically."

He also said that the IRHE charges a fixed fee in low-income districts like Coronado and San Miguelito.

Bruno said that the IRHE is considering the possibility of installing meters in those areas. This would be good for the consumer and for the agency.

Drop in Liberia's Ship Flagging Fee Demanded

PAZ/20007/1989 Panama City: Dominican Service in Spanish 1200 (GMT) 27 Sep 89

[Nation's commentary]

[Text] How far will the U.S. aggression reach? Just as the U.S. Administration had announced a few weeks ago, the U.S. aggression against Panama has increased, especially against the economy. Mr. Bush's government is making enormous efforts to isolate our country through diplomatic pressure and economic blackmail on friendly sister countries and on countries long identified as having a tradition of struggle of oppressed peoples.

The pressure has reached unimaginable levels, such as the fee reduction established by the Republic of Liberia for flagging vessels. Liberia has reduced by approximately 50 percent what it used to charge as taxes for flagging a vessel. We are talking of a flat fee figure of \$2,500 [unheard] per ship, which is what Liberia is currently charging. Our country charges 50,000 [halfpennies] for each ship and 100,000 [halfpennies] for each super-tanker.

It is obvious that the empire's tentacles have reached that country for the sole purpose of choking the Panamanian economy. On this subject, Dr. Hugo Torrijos, director of the General Consular and Ships Directorate, also speaks on these matters—and that Liberia's tariffs are rock-bottom. He added that he is under the impression that this follows U.S. pressure to force Panama to change law. Dr. Torrijos is definitely not mistaken. Members of the establishment [preceding word in English] intend to tighten and tighten until we fall to the ground with a last gasp and bite the dust for having been insolent and for having defended our rights by asking that we be respected. This has been our great motto: demand respect and to refuse to march in step with the United States.

No, we are not a tribe with no reasoning capacity. This is a country where men and women live whose intelligence quotient is similar to that of anyone living in other countries of the world.

The pressure we have been under for the last few years has propelled the development of alternative methods to overcome the crisis we are undergoing. We will overcome this crisis—there is no doubt!

Media Review on Political, Economic Situation

PAZ/099/77949

[Editorial Report] The following is a review of material from Panamanian and regional media related to the current political and economic situation in Panama. The review draws solely on broadcast and press reports monitored by FBIS Panama Bureau. This review covers the period from 8 to 22 September and includes some material that has been processed in fuller form.

Government Newspaper Lists Conditions for Elections

There was little mention during the reporting period either by government officials or the media of the possibility of holding new presidential elections. The regime-controlled newspaper CRITICA in its "Headline" column of 18 September, however, listed 10 conditions that it said the U.S. Government must meet before elections could be held in Panama, including:

- Release of canal annuities
- Halt to "financing seditious groups that incite violence"
- Halt to low-altitude overflights by combat aircraft and the deployment of armored vehicles in Panamanian towns
- Withdrawal from Panama of "U.S. Southern Command troops and equipment that violate (Panama's) territorial integrity"
- Indemnification for damage done to the Chiriqui water plant
- Indemnification to families of Panamanians killed by explosive devices as a result of U.S. negligence
- Nonintervention in domestic affairs and a halt to the "persecution" of General Noriega
- Acceptance of decisions made by Panamanian courts
- Recognition of Panama's appointee for canal administration
- Respect for the Torrijos-Carter treaties in their entirety

CRITICA added that "only when these 10 requirements are met... will we be able—within the necessary climate of harmony—to lay the foundations for presidential elections."

Reaction to New U.S. Government Sanctions

Government officials and regime-controlled media denounced the latest U.S. Government economic sanctions against Panama but vowed to continue taking measures to resist U.S. pressures. In an exclusive interview with Radio Havana broadcast on 13 September, Provisional Vice President Carlos Ochoa said that "no type of measure will alter our position regarding certain

elements that are strictly Panama's domestic policy." Gustavo Gonzalez, planning and economic policy minister and acting foreign minister, termed the latest U.S. sanctions "blackmail" aimed at destroying the Panamanian economy. Gonzalez complained that "the U.S. attitude is not based on justice and equality and represents an unprecedented interference in Panama's affairs." On the U.S. ban on trade relations with Panamanian officials and companies linked to the new regime, Gonzalez opined that the U.S. was limiting its sanctions to certain individuals to cause personal damage and to seek a change in the attitude of some government officials.

According to press agency reports, Rene Bultren, former minister of public works in the Sales Palma Administration, announced on 20 September that the Chase Manhattan Bank branch in Panama had frozen the funds of Panamanian citizens linked to the current Panamanian Government. Bultren said that he had been advised that he could no longer transact business at the bank, and he termed the action "unconstitutional and unprecedented." He urged Panama's National Banking Commission to put an end to this practice.

Regarding the U.S. ban on Panamanian sugar imports, Mateo Castillejo, director of the state-owned La Victoria Sugar Mill Corporation, said "The Bush Administration continues to attack our country, and we are prepared to confront these threats. We are about to enter negotiations with European countries and the USSR to sell our product." Castillejo added that Panama would sell or barter sugar for fertilizers, electricity, or any other product to counter "the attacks against our country."

In a 14 September editorial, the daily newspaper LA REPUBLICA denounced the sugar-import ban as another way for the United States to "humiliate" the country, noting that the loss of the U.S. market will represent an annual \$26 million loss for Panama. The newspaper minimized the effect of the ban, however, by saying that since Panama produces "first-class sugar" it can sell its product anywhere.

In commenting to RPT Television on the possibility of the United States banning Panamanian-flagged ships from U.S. ports, Hugo Torrijos, director of the Panamanian General Consular and Ships Directorate, said that such a measure would "threaten seriously the existence of the Panamanian merchant marine." He added that the threat of this measure has led to a recent reduction in the number of Panamanian-flagged ships, though he did not specify the extent of the decline. Torrijos noted that ship registration contributes approximately \$80 million annually to the country's economy, representing 3 percent of GNP and 5 percent of the government's gross income.

Indications of Continued Economic Deterioration

There was continued media coverage of the country's declining economic situation and deteriorating government social programs. Mario de Diego, executive

director of the National Banking Commission said Panama's economy was mired in an "acute recession" resulting from the "U.S. aggression" against Panama which was being "devastated" by the United States.

Various media reports supported de Diego's statements. A 16 September CRITICA report citing the director of social planning of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy (MIPPE) reported that "the country has experienced a significant increase in the number of people at the poverty level, which on a national basis rose from 11.8 percent in 1987 to its current level of 16 percent." The report noted that metropolitan areas have been affected the most with poverty levels among city dwellers rising from 14 to 21 percent since 1987.

The 20 September edition of the newspaper LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA carried the text of a communique issued by the Panamanian Teachers Association, which condemned the government for allowing school buildings to deteriorate due to lack of maintenance, adding that there were also no supplies in the classrooms, training shops, and laboratories. The teachers group blamed the "meager Education Ministry budget" for the problem, which it said has been "trimmed year after year." In responding to the communique, Education Minister Juan Bosco Bernal admitted that the government had been unable to perform the required maintenance on "some schools" because of "the (U.S.) aggression and economic restrictions on the Education Ministry and the national government in general."

Unsatisfactory conditions were also reported in the medical field. Radio Exitosa on 20 September broadcast an interview with Dr. Carlos Abadía, member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Doctors, Dentists, and Related Professionals of the Social Security Institute (AMDOCS), and AMDOCS Secretary Dr. Leticia Rodríguez. Abadía reported that medical services provided by the Social Security Institute (CSS) have declined 70 percent, though the income the CSS receives via employee payroll deductions has declined by only 10 percent. He pointed out that "elective surgical procedures have been suspended for 4 weeks. There is a lack of basic medical supplies such as antibiotics, erythromycin, ampicillin, and laboratory materials that are essential for doing blood tests." Rodríguez noted that the average number of surgical procedures performed daily by the CSS medical complex in Panama City has declined from between 100 to 150 per day when medical supplies were adequate, to a current average of 20 operations per day.

Abadía also pointed out that the government's health budget "is shrunk from almost 13 percent of the national budget to less than 5.5 percent, which he said has resulted in increased epidemics in the country, including the resurgence of dengue and yellow fever from the proliferation of breeding spots for the Aedes Aegypti mosquito. A 16 September CRITICA editorial entitled "Is the Aggressor's Hand Sowing Death?" pointed out that the dreaded Aedes Aegypti vector had been wiped out in Panama until approximately 1 and 1/2

years ago. The editorial blamed the resurgence of the mosquito and the return of these diseases, however, on U.S. "biological warfare."

New Government Initiatives To Counter Economic Decline

In response to instructions from Provisional President Francisco Rodríguez to implement austerity measures and to make innovations to revitalize the economy, government officials have announced plans aimed at achieving these objectives. Planning Minister González announced on 18 September that the country will make no further payments on its foreign debt for the next 3 years "because the country's economy is in a state of shock as public finances have declined 40 percent and the unemployment rate has increased 18 percent."

The education minister announced on 13 September that 12 directorate positions in his ministry had been cut as a result of the "economic restrictions prompted by the (U.S.) aggression to which Panama has been subjected," and the National Finance Corporation on 18 September announced an "aggressive program" to recover more than \$50 million owed to the government by 123 companies operating in Panama.

In an effort to boost the country's tourist industry, the executive branch on 19 September instructed the Institute of Tourism to restore the validity of tourist cards, which until 17 April 1989 had been used in place of visas to encourage international tourism.

The government has also decided to create a free zone in Paso Causa on the border with Costa Rica. According to an 18 September CRITICA editorial entitled "Panama Faces the Future," the new free zone will be a "large source of employment for the natives of Chiriquí Province and for thousands of Panamanians throughout the country. Its benefits will be seen soon in the transport sector, in renovation of existing hotels and buildings in the area and the building of new ones, including tourist centers, travel agencies, and a growth in the development of small- and medium-size industries."

Meanwhile, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA reported on 20 September that an association of Colon Free Zone users is "frustrated" over the government's intention to create another free zone in Paso Causa since Sofía Palma, former minister in charge of the Presidency, had promised them on 10 August that no new free trade zones would be created in Panama.

In an interview with Radio Nacional on 12 September, Luis Barletta, director of the Panamanian Foreign Trade Institute (IPCE), said that IPCE was in the process of drafting new treaties with Caribbean countries, such as the Dominican Republic, which he said would mean "at least a \$100-million increase in Panamanian trade in the 1st year." He said that similar efforts are currently being made to improve commercial exchange with South

America through the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), and that a trade delegation was preparing to leave for El Salvador, Peru, Bolivia, and Chile to promote Panamanian products in those countries. Noriega also announced Panama's participation in Cuba's 7th International Fair during the 1st week of November because of Cuba's "great potential" for buying Panamanian goods. He added that IPCE and other government agencies are organizing a trip to CEMA countries and possibly to the Soviet Union. He said that Panama wanted to sell agricultural produce to the Soviet Union in exchange for Soviet agricultural machinery.

The newspaper LA REPUBLICA reported on 20 September that MIPPE had developed an investment strategy mainly in the construction industry for the building of priority projects that would bring construction activity in Panama to its early 1980's level. The planned projects include joint investments with foreign enterprises in the Port Complex project, in industrial processing for exports, and in the new Paso Canoas Free Zone. The MIPPE strategy also calls for the promotion of private construction projects "like a new oil pipeline, which is under study."

Commander David Announces Armed Action in Panama

Government media condemned the United States and Costa Rica for alleged complicity in planned mercenary

attacks in Panama aimed at overthrowing the government. Panama's Radio Exitosa reported on 12 September that a mercenary identifying himself as "Commander David" had broadcast an announcement the previous evening over a Costa Rican television station to recruit Costa Rican citizens to combat Panamanian General Manuel Noriega. According to the report, the mercenary said that an organization called Panamanian Resistance would begin military actions soon to topple Noriega. A 13 September Radio Nacional commentary condemned the Costa Rican Government for allowing its territory and airwaves to be used for purposes of "U.S. disinformation" against Panama and for attempting "to sow chaos and unrest in Panamanian society."

In its 14 September issue, CRITICA reported that the Voice of America, "the official mouthpiece of the U.S. Government," had broadcast a statement by a mercenary "on contract to the CIA" who had announced that a guerrilla movement would soon begin attacks in Panamanian territory to overthrow the Panamanian Government. The report said that hours later this same mercenary appeared on Costa Rican television to recruit Costa Ricans into a mercenary army to attack Panama. CRITICA said that even if there were differences between Costa Rica and Panama—"and there are none—the correct and established way to resolve them is not by organizing mercenary gangs. As we can see, the United States is still determined to choke us, using methods outside the basic international legal norms."

Panama's Televisora Nacional reported on 14 September that Panama's 20,000-man strong Dignity Militations were on "special alert" to repel any armed attack by any "subversive groups."

Argentina

President Menem Arrives in New York 24 Sep

PY24092/10289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1701 GMT 24 Sep 89

[By a special correspondent]

[Text] New York, 24 Sep (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has stressed that Argentina does not want to be a dependent country. "But, yes, it wants to be a good partner of the United States." He also maintained that drug trafficking "is worse than any war."

The Argentine chief of state arrived this morning in New York, beginning a 6-day visit to the United States. During his stay he will address the UN General Assembly and meet with U.S. President George Bush.

At John F. Kennedy Airport, where he arrived at 0850 (0950 Argentine time), Menem stated that he has "very high expectations" for his trip.

He said that in his 25 September address to the General Assembly, he will state that Argentina "is experiencing another stage in its historical and institutional life," and that it intends "to reenter the international community of nations on an equal footing on the basis of proposals that will result in development, growth, and peace."

Regarding his meeting with Bush, which will take place on 27 September in Washington, he said that they will talk about such topics as Latin American and continental integration, drug trafficking, and the current conflicts that are, he said, "ravaging some places of the planet, and all that pertains to the mutual interests of Argentina and the United States."

A reporter asked him how Argentina was preparing for a new dialogue with Great Britain after the Malvinas Islands conflict, in view of the United Kingdom's experience in international negotiations.

Menem said: "We have also learned, and we are going to use our experience in these permanent meetings with the United Kingdom, with whom we intend to renew diplomatic relations."

After greeting the reception committee, Menem left for the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, where he is staying. At 1800 (1900 Argentine time) Menem will give a reception at the consulate for approximately 600 representatives of the Argentines who reside in New York. Tonight he will dine privately at Rockefeller Plaza.

Health Minister Corzo Dies in Plane Crash

PY24091/16049 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1530 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Posadas, 23 Sep (NA)—Health and Social Action Minister Julio Corzo died in a plane crash in Posadas

this morning. The minister was on his way to Posadas to launch the National Solidarity Bonus Program in Misiones.

At noon the number of people who died in the accident was still unknown, but Radio Provincia of Misiones reported that "the two pilots survived."

The minister was accompanied by assistants and journalists aboard a Lear jet, which had been sent from the province to the federal capital to bring the minister.

The plane overflowed the Posadas airport, where Governor Julio Cesar Humada was awaiting the minister and his entourage, but in a few seconds it vanished from the air.

Seconds later people on a boat reported to Coast Guard personnel that they saw a plane falling near Puerto Parana.

The plane fell into the Parana River. Coast Guard personnel are working to rescue the survivors and to recover the bodies.

Five Known Survivors

PY24091/1489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1640 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Posadas, 23 Sep (TELAM)—The Lear jet that crashed today into the Parana River near the city of Posadas was carrying seven persons. Health Minister Julio Corzo died in the crash, and his private secretary, Pedro Mendeville, is missing. However, the other persons, including the pilot and the copilot, are still alive.

That report comes from Posadas Government General Secretary Alejandro Fain.

The following is the list of survivors: Atilio Alvarez, under secretary for minors, family life, and elderly affairs; Alberto Comea, director of the National Social Emergency Office; Silvia Martinez, director of the National Maternity and Children's Affairs Office; and the pilot and copilot, whose identities have not been disclosed.

New Minister Appointed

PY24090/1339 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
0804 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Sep (TELAM)—Presidential spokesman Humberto Toledo tonight announced that Antonio Erman Gonzalez has been appointed the new minister of health and social action to replace Julio Corzo, who died in a plane crash today. The new health and social action minister had served up to now as the first vice president of the Argentine Central Bank.

Bomb Explodes in Provincial Capital of Penedas

PY 200919Z SEP 89 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
0042 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Penedas, 23 Sep (TELAM)—Two medium-strength bombs went off last night in front of the residence of a former provincial interior minister and of the transmitter station of a cable TV channel in this provincial capital.

One of the bombs went off in front of the building where lawyer Mario Luis Ovando, who was the provincial interior minister in 1975, has his office [as received]. The building is located at 2284 25 de Mayo Street in downtown Penedas.

A young woman leaving the house next door was slightly injured in the leg by flying pieces of glass when the bomb went off. Police sources confirmed that the explosion also seriously damaged two cars parked nearby.

The other bomb went off in front of a building belonging to the Ratti Building Company where the "GELSAT" cable TV channel has its receiving [as received] station. The cable TV channel belongs to businessman Omar Ratti, who told TELAM this morning that he is "confused" by the attack. He said "I have no enemies, I am not involved in politics, and I have not received any anonymous threats."

The second bomb was made up of five sticks of dynamite and a fuse. An employee discovered the explosive device when he caught the smell of burning gunpowder (from the fuse) coming out of a package.

When the employee opened the package, he found the bomb and tried to cut the fuse with a pair of pliers but failed. The employee left the place a few minutes before the bomb went off around 2340 local time. The explosion damaged the masonry. [passage omitted]

Rally Against Pardon Held in Buenos Aires

PY 200919Z SEP 89 Buenos Aires Domestic Service
in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] A large crowd attended the rock festival held around the obelisk in downtown Buenos Aires to protest pardoning the officers of the military regime. The rally, which was attended by more than 50,000 youths, featured the performance of more than 20,000 [figure as heard] famous popular songs. The meeting was organized by the youth sectors of the various political parties.

During the demonstration, a document drafted by all the political parties who sponsored the event was read. The joint document expressed the youths' rejection of the military regime and its consequences, including hunger. The document also expressed support for the efforts to recover the Malvinas, and to find a solution to socioeconomic problems.

Officials View High-Tech Combat Simulation

PY 200915Z SEP 89 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1120 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Sep (TELAM)—Today Defense Minister Italo Luder and Education Minister Antonio Salonia attended the demonstration of a training system at the War College. The system attempts to simulate real combat, specifically aspects related to the effect of intensive and low-cost military operations.

The combat simulation was held at the War College in the Palermo district of the capital.

High technology has made modern warfare complex and costly, and demands the development of training systems that simulate real combat situations.

In response to this need, the Army designed and put into operation a system for tactical training as part of a new stage in improving the Army training facilities. In line with the current economic situation, the system is cost-effective and simulates military operations very realistically.

The simulator has a communication system made up of radio and telephone simulator subsystems which represent the communication networks of various units.

There is also a computer data system that provides "very detailed" information on the combat. There is also a video system and closed-circuit television to monitor the behavior, reactions, and orders given by the various commanders.

The documentation used in the simulation allows the participants to know the capabilities and limitations of the arms system, as well as information on troop movements, firepower, close combat, electronic warfare, and air support.

A U.S. Army delegation from the Southern Command participated in the simulation to develop a "war game" named "First Battle."

The simulation was also attended by officers of the Air War College, the High Technical School, and the Intelligence School, as well as students from Brazil, Uruguay, the United States, Venezuela, and Korea.

The purpose of the training is to get the necessary experience to improve the system, and to place the Army at a high level in the area of military instruction in relation to the armies of the more developed countries.

The training exercise was also attended by Admiral Emilio Cuel, chief of the joint chiefs of staff, General Martin Balza, deputy chief of the joint chiefs of staff, Gerardo Rivas, director of military institutes, General Eduardo Fiorini, chief of the Army Special Training Institute, and Colonels Anibal Laine and Carlos Orsini, director and deputy director of the War College, respectively.

Officials Discusses Drug Addiction Rates

PY 24090/1580 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1044 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 23 Sep (NA)—Alberto Lestellé, secretary for the prevention of drug addiction and the antinarcotic struggle, has reported that "between 70,000 and 80,000 persons use drugs" in Argentina and emphasized that "the average age of 70 percent of these people is 21 years old."

Lestellé stated that the "peak" narcotics consumption areas "are Greater Buenos Aires, the federal capital, Greater Rosario, Mar del Plata, Córdoba, Tucumán, and Salta." He explained that "some 60,000 youths are addicted, 95 percent of them to marijuana and cocaine and the rest using LSD, heroin, and opium."

Lestellé told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that "cocaine is coming into Argentina from Colombia and marijuana is coming from Paraguay and Brazil," while Bolivia "supplies coca leaves for chewing." He added that kids "begin by sniffing glue at the age of 12 or 13, later switch to marijuana, and 7 or 8 years later they are on cocaine."

He expressed serious concern because "there are 500 kg of pure cocaine at the Central Bank," seized during "Operation Langostino." He said "We have already gotten in touch with Judge Losada, who is in charge of the case, and we asked him to speed up the burning of this drug." (passage omitted)

Bolivia**Paz on Problems in U.S. Coca Replacement Plan**

PY 24090/204200 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1044 GMT
23 Sep 89

[By Agustín de Gracia]

[Text] La Paz, 23 Sep (EFE)—The Bolivian Government believes that the U.S. plan to replace coca plantations in this country "is far" from achieving its desired goals. The program, which was implemented this year, seeks to eradicate gradually 5,000 hectares of coca plantations per year out of the 62,000 hectares that exist in Bolivia, the second-largest producer of coca leaves in the world after Peru. The program is focused on the Central Chapare region and the United States has earmarked \$28.4 million for it this year, but it has only managed to eradicate 26 percent of the plantations scheduled to be replaced during 1989.

At a dinner party with journalists in this capital last night, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora admitted that "we are not going to be very successful as long as the peasants of the Chapare area continue to view the Bolivian Government as an ally of a foreign government."

The program, which is being conducted by the U.S. Government's Agency for International Development (AID), gives the peasants \$2,000 for each hectare of coca replaced.

Peasants interviewed by EFE, however, complain that this amount is not enough, that there is no substitute for coca leaf, and that alternative crops do not have the same market value.

Paz Zamora added that "I think we should admit that the results of the plan to replace coca plantations is far from achieving its desired objectives. I would not say it has been a failure, because we have at least made people aware of the problem, which is very important."

Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde, who accompanied Paz Zamora along with two other ministers, noted that coca plantations, instead of being reduced during the 1st year of the program, have increased over the past 12 months.

The foreign minister said that "the plan to replace 5,000 hectares in 1989 has only managed to replace 1,300 hectares, and the 50,000 hectares that allegedly existed previously have now increased to 60,000 hectares."

President Paz Zamora noted the need to draw up "rationally" a program to establish favorable markets for the crops that will replace coca, so that Bolivian peasants are not forced to choose between money or keeping their coca plantations.

Paz Zamora said that "the international community, especially the industrialized countries, should try to buy the alternative products produced through a responsible program."

The Bolivian president called for a "frank attitude" from those countries cooperating with Bolivia in the struggle against drug trafficking and wondered "Are we at war or not? Are we doing this seriously or not?"

The president said that although the forces struggling against drug trafficking in Bolivia are criticized for being corrupt, international cooperation also has its share of "immorality and irresponsibility."

Paz Zamora asserted that "the mechanisms for cooperation are not necessarily effective. None of us, not the minister, not me, know where the millions allotted for the struggle against drug trafficking are; most are used to pay the salaries of the advisors themselves."

He added that "it is a neoliberal point of view that takes into account services and marketing," although the "Bennett plan" represents a step forward because for the first time the consumer countries are sharing the responsibility.

Paz Zamora, Peruvian President Alan García, and Colombian President Virgilio Barco will discuss the "Bennett plan" during a meeting in Lima on 8-9 October.

Peru and Bolivia are the largest coca leaf producers in the world, while the Caribbean drug "cartels" process and deliver to the U.S. market 80 percent of the cocaine consumed in the United States.

Paz Zamora said that "the drug trafficking problem is similar to the foreign debt problem (i.e., it is appropriate to discuss it with the countries involved, but each one is involved in a specific way."

The Bolivian president insisted that it was not necessary to have foreign troops in his country to struggle against drug trafficking because the local forces are capable of coping with the problem.

Paz Zamora ended by stating that "the police forces have great charisma and a great spirit of sacrifice, but they have little equipment. If we ask for help, it will be for material and not troops."

Anez on Diversification of Antidrug Struggle

PY2209142389 La Paz: La Red Panamericana
in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] General Lucio Anez, retired, who yesterday was installed by Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco as the new commander of the Special Antinarcotics Force, has said that the antidrug struggle will be diversified, particularly regarding the control of the manufacture and sale of chemicals used in drug production.

Gen Anez added that he shares the opinion of some Bolivian sectors regarding the presence of foreign military troops in the country [words indistinct]. In this regard, Gen Anez said that Bolivia relies on the appropriate organizations to lead the antidrug struggle; therefore, the participation of U.S. troops in Bolivia is unnecessary. He added that the Bolivian Armed Forces and police have the professional capability to fight drug trafficking, and that the new U.S. antidrug plan should include greater financial support for Bolivian antidrug efforts. He stated that once the shortage of funds is eliminated, the problem can be brought under control.

Anez also said he believes the Armed Forces should have a more prominent role in the joint antidrug struggle, and that the government and CONALID [National Council Against Drug Abuse and Illegal Drug Trafficking] will probably make a decision in this regard in the next few hours.

Blues Decide To Postpone Municipal Elections

PY2209143489 La Paz: La Red Panamericana
in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] The ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action], MIB [New Majority], [Movimiento of the Revolutionary Left-New Majority], MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement], and the United Left Front [FL] Blues have decided to postpone the municipal elections. This was reported to La Red Panamericana by Deputy Graciano Camacho, who said that decision was made yesterday

during a meeting between the leaders of those blues and representatives of the chamber of deputies.

Camacho added that the interior minister also took part in the meeting and that he explained the measures that the government should implement to safeguard the municipal elections and thus guarantee the participation of the majority, particularly the [words indistinct]. [recorded passage indistinct]

Senator To Seek Support for Sea Outlet Claim

PY2209225289 Madrid: EFE in Spanish 0521 GMT
23 Sep 89

[Text] La Paz, 22 Sep (EFE)—Jorge Escobari, chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the Bolivian Senate, today proposed that Bolivia's claim to a sea outlet be made a "global" problem at the 46th General Assembly of the United Nations.

Escobari, a former Bolivian foreign minister and an expert on Bolivia's landlocked situation, said that at the UN meeting Bolivia could obtain the support of the 101 nonaligned nations and of other countries as well.

"This is the right time for these countries to join forces at the United Nations, and to pass a resolution stating that Bolivia's lack of an outlet to the sea is a global problem that deserves the support of all the world's countries," Escobari said.

The senator, who will travel to the UN General Assembly with President Jaime Paz, pointed out that "Chile has ignored 10 opportunities to resolve Bolivia's landlocked situation." He added that "Chile currently feels estranged from the international community and, if Bolivia once again receives global support for its cause, it will be made clear that Chile's position is absolutely groundless and unjustified."

The Bolivian Government has announced that President Paz Zamora will reiterate the country's demand for an outlet to the sea, which it lost 110 years ago, and will ask for international solidarity in the quest for a peaceful and multilateral solution to this conflict.

Bolivia lost its sea coast on the Pacific Ocean during the war that it waged—together with Peru—against Chile in 1879.

Brazil

President Sarney Leaves for U.S. Visit

PY2209180889 Rio de Janeiro: Rede Globo Television
in Portuguese 1700 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Excerpt] President Jose Sarney has said that the government will not pay the salary increase that the Superior Labor Court ordered for Bank of Brazil employees. The president left for the United States early today. At the

Brasília Air Base. Sarmes installed Chamber of Deputies Speaker Páez de Andrade as acting president. [passage omitted]

Central Bank Intervenes in Dollar, Gold Areas

PY200001389 São Paulo: FOLHA DE SÃO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Sep 89 p. 1

[Text] Yesterday, the Central Bank (BC) finally managed to stop the rise in the price of gold and the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar on the parallel market. The BC took two steps to stop the rise that began on Monday, 18 September. It announced an increase in interest rates effective in October, and sold gold on the market.

The parallel market exchange rate had reached 6 new cruzados per dollar yesterday morning but by 10:00 end of the day it was down to 5.70 and 5.75 new cruzados, respectively, for purchase and sale. The "black" market exchange rate now stands 70.88 percent above the official exchange rate. The price of gold (unit not specified) fell to 64.4 new cruzados after having been sold at 67.5 new cruzados all day. A total of 7.3 tons of gold were negotiated on the spot market today.

Trade Surplus for Country Reported in August

PY200004556 São Paulo: O ESTADÃO DE SÃO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Sep 89 p. 1

[Text] Brazil had a trade surplus of \$1.44 billion in August. Exports amounted to \$3.374 billion, the second highest figure this year, and imports reached \$1.934 billion, the second highest in the last decade. This year's surplus now stands at \$12.008 billion, suggesting that the \$16 billion target figure for this year's overall trade surplus will be reached by December.

Company To Produce Data Transmission Systems

PY200021789 São Paulo: O ESTADÃO DE SÃO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Sep 89 p. 9

[Text] The Villares Control Company, part of the Villares Group, will produce communications systems in Brazil for low-speed data transmission via satellite. It will use the technology of Tridom, a subsidiary of the U.S. company AT&T. The agreement for the technology transfer was announced yesterday at the Ninth International Computer Science Fair. The SID [expansion unknown] company took advantage of the fair to present its new products.

Nelson Bastos, president of Villares Control, stated: "Thanks to this accord, our company, which already has a big piece of the high-speed data transmission systems market, will begin to produce medium- and low-speed systems." The new stations that Villares Control will produce will cost approximately \$40,000 each and the company plans to participate in the bidding for the purchase of systems that BANESPA [São Paulo State Bank] and EMBRATEL [Brazilian Telecommunications Company] are about to initiate.

The SID's main novelty was its SMX-190 supermicro-computer, with a 66 terminal capacity. The SID-802 PC-AT compatible and the SID-803 are the two new microcomputer models.

Correction to Further on Nonpayment of Interest

PY200021289

The following is a correction to the item headlined "Further on Nonpayment of Interest," published in the 21 September Latin America DAILY REPORT on pages 22-23.

page 23, column 1 penultimate paragraph, last sentence, make read: creditors that the high-interest policy is preferable (changing "tax" to "interest").

Chile

Foreign Minister Departs for UN Meeting

Holds Press Conference

PY200144089 Santiago: Domestic Service in Spanish 10:00 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz has stated that the Chilean Government does not need donations nor international financial aid to make progress. It has already proven that development is possible without that type of cooperation.

The minister thus referred to the European tour by opposition presidential candidate Patricio Aylwin.

The foreign minister held a news conference to discuss his agenda for the UN General Assembly in New York, for which he will depart today. [passage omitted]

Regarding the ERG, Errazuriz said that the relationship with that country has deteriorated as a result of recent comments made by the ERG Foreign Ministry regarding the Chilean court's decision in the Cobos Dignidad case. [passage omitted]

Leaves for U.S. 23 Sep

PY200204089 [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1806 GMT 24 Sep 89]

[Text] Santiago, 24 Sep (EFE)—Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz left for the United States last night. He will stay in the United States for 10 days, attend the UN General Assembly, and visit OAS headquarters.

At Santiago International Airport, Minister Errazuriz said his agenda of interviews and diplomatic contacts is designed to intensify Latin American relations.

"Our participation in the UN activities also tends to emphasize Chile's contributions to peace and to stress our presence abroad through the opening of new markets.

in countries with which we have not had relations in the last few years, such as Hungary and Poland," he said.

Antidrug, Other Agreements Signed With Peru

PY2009150009 Santiago Domestic Service
in Spanish 1030 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Chile and Peru have decided to sign an administrative antidrug agreement that will represent a concrete contribution to the increasingly tighter cooperation in the struggle against drug trafficking.

This initiative is part of the agreements reached during the visit to Chile by Peruvian Foreign Ministry Secretary General Alfonso Rivero, who met with high-ranking authorities of the Chilean Foreign Ministry.

It was also decided to hold the sixth meeting of the Joint Border Cooperation Sub-Committee from 28 to 30 November. On that occasion a number of measures to strengthen relations on the border shared by the two countries will be discussed.

A press communiqué issued by the Chilean Foreign Ministry adds that the Chilean and Peruvian representatives discussed commercial measures designed to expedite bilateral exchange between the two countries. Among those measures is the broadening of the scope of the partial trade agreement within the framework of the Latin American Integration Association.

Merrino on Origin of Opposition's Resources

PY2209174000 Santiago Domestic Service
in Spanish 1030 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Navy Commander Admiral Jose Toribio Merrino Castro has asserted that the recent holdups of financial enterprises are designed to collect money to finance the electoral campaigns of some opposition parties.

Adm Merrino, who made this statement after presiding over a meeting of the legislative branch at the Diego Portales Building, said that those crimes were committed by terrorists.

[Begin Merrino Recording] In the future—or even now—there will be some professional terrorists in the country. We Chileans are not accustomed to that sort of terrorism, such as the holdup yesterday during which some 70 million Chilean pesos—that is, some 30 million Chilean pesos plus dollars and other foreign currencies—were seized. It should be noted that those holdups are not designed to enrich the thieves, but rather to finance certain kitties. By "kitties" I am referring to the funds to finance the electoral campaigns of some political parties that do not have money, because they have not received it from abroad as have other parties.

There is no doubt that there are people in the country teaching the Chileans everything they do not know about committing sophisticated crimes. [end recording] [passage omitted]

National Party Announces Support for Errazuriz

PY2009151009 Santiago Domestic Service
in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Excerpt] The leadership of the National Party, presided over by its president, Luciano Vaquez, has proclaimed independent presidential candidate Francisco Javier Errazuriz as its candidate.

The ceremony, which was attended by some 200 National Party supporters, took place at the Fernandez Concha Club on Compania Street between Morande and Testinos Streets, where, according to Luciano Vaquez, Jorge Alessandri Rodriguez was once proclaimed president of the Republic. [passage omitted]

Vaquez explained that the party leaders had delayed their decision because they were trying to decide who was the best candidate. He also said that the National Party's proposals to achieve the unity of the center-right had unfortunately not been successful. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Londino Warns of Unbearable Diplomatic Climate

PA2200015109 Bogota Invasion Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 0800 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Report by Diana Sofia Giraldo]

[Text] The good relations between Colombia and the United States have been endangered due to the U.S. Embassy's rejection of visas to Colombian congressmen. Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londino sent a letter to the U.S. Charge d' Affairs and warned that an unbearable diplomatic climate could arise if a satisfactory explanation is not received from the U.S. Government.

Foreign Minister Londino asked the U.S. Embassy's Charge d' Affairs officer to reply as soon as possible if it is true that visas were denied to several Colombian congressmen and, if so, the reasons why such measures were taken. Londino Paredes warned that rumors have circulated without an adequate explanation from the U.S. Government and that an unbearable climate could arise in the relations between both countries as a result of the situation. The foreign minister added that he did not want to interfere in the U.S. Government's decisions, but that detailed, official information is required because the prestige of the Colombian Congress is at stake.

The U.S. Embassy in Colombia, however, stood firm in its position of not revealing the names of congressmen who were not given visas or the reasons why some congressmen could not enter the United States. Embassy

sources stated that it was a private problem between the U.S. Government and the individuals involved. Despite this decision, congressmen such as Bernardo Guerra, Alberto Santofimio, ("Isiro Ortega) and others, admitted that they do not have visas but have demanded an explanation because their reputations are at stake.

Drug Lords Said To Want Talks With Government

P.L./209/14889 Paris: AFP in Spanish 14:27 GMT
 22 Sep 89

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 22 Sep (AFP)—Pablo Escobar Gaviria and Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, the two top leaders of the Medellin Cartel, have asked the Liberal government of President Virgilio Barco to begin a dialogue to put an end to the war unleashed in the country.

In an interview with Medellin's EL MUNDO newspaper published today, Liberal Party parliamentarian Norberto Morales Ballesteros, president of the Chamber of Representatives who recently said that he advocated a dialogue with the drug traffickers, disclosed that he talked with Escobar Gaviria and Rodriguez Gacha over the telephone.

He said that Rodriguez Gacha phoned him first and then, several days later, Escobar Gaviria called him to tell him, in a way that was "brief, respectful, and devoid of any threats," that they were in positions to accept dialogue with the government to seek bloodless solutions to the conflict that placed them at odds.

Morales Ballesteros told EL MUNDO that the two "drug lords" agreed with a proposal made by Medellin Mayor Juan Gomez Martinez, who proposed, several weeks ago, the possibility of beginning a dialogue without negotiations, with the drug barons.

Gomez Martinez—who came out unharmed from an attack by the Extraditables (who are against the delivery of Colombians to U.S. justice) on his Medellin home in 1987—has insisted on a dialogue without making any concessions.

According to the version carried today by EL MUNDO, Escobar Gaviria and Rodriguez Gacha reportedly have told Morales Ballesteros of their wishes to bring several millions of dollars to contribute toward improving the country's social and economic situation.

The note inserted in the morning newspaper published in Medellin, a city located 500 km northeast of Bogota, does not mention where the two drug lords reportedly called from.

On 18 August, when gunmen killed Luis Carlos Galan, a senator and Liberal Party presidential hopeful, Barco's government declared a total war against the production and traffic of drugs.

Colonel Waldemar Franklin Quintero, commander of the Antioquia Police Department, was killed in Medellin the day before Galan's murder.

Since then the Army and the police launched an offensive against the drug lords, searching and confiscating approximately 400 farms, seizing weapons and ammunition, and arresting at least 5 possible extraditables.

One of the extraditables, Eduardo Martinez Romero, has already been handed over to the U.S. Justice Department.

The antidrug campaign has also had its effects on the Barco government.

Justice Minister Monica de Greiff last night tendered her irrevocable resignation. She has yet to be replaced.

Call From 'Extraditables' Confirmed

P.L./209/15889 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
 in Spanish 17:14 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Interview with Norberto Morales Ballesteros, president of the Chamber of Representatives, by unidentified reporter—live telephone relay]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. President of the Chamber, we are calling you to ask you to confirm a report that has been disseminated in the past few minutes. It has been said that some people known as the Extraditables contacted you by telephone.

[Morales Ballesteros] Yes, definitely. They asked me as president of the Chamber of Representatives to convey to the government their desire or decision to talk or seek a solution to this problem. They asked me to agree with the Medellin mayor, who said that they should be listened to.

This is what I have done. A few days ago, I informed the president of the Republic and the leader of my party about it. I feel that it was a big responsibility but, after all, it befits my high position.

[Reporter] What contacts have been made so far?

[Morales Ballesteros] All I did was to convey this message to the people who can do something about it. My position as president of the Chamber of Representatives allows me to do just that. I am a person who acted following a telephone call. I was asked to listen to them, just as Medellin Mayor Gomez Martinez suggested. I was told that, in response to the attitude of the Medellin mayor, they will make Medellin the most peaceful city in Colombia, showing that they are interested in having things go well.

[Reporter] Did the person who talked to you identify himself?

[Morales Ballesteros] They said that they were talking on behalf of the Extraditables and that they preferred a jail cell in Colombia to one in the United States. They said that they were asking me to do them the favor of serving as a communications channel to the authorities.

[Reporter] Did you convey that request?

[Morales Ballesteros] Yes, sir.

[Reporter] To whom?

[Morales Ballesteros] The president of the Republic and my party's chief, Julio Cesar Turbay.

[Reporter] Thank you.

De Greiff Holds News Conference on Resignation

P.1/1090/11189 Bogota Invasion Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Sep 89

[News Conference by outgoing Justice Minister Monica De Greiff in Bogota on 23 September—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mrs. Minister, the most spoken about rumor of the past days is that the president had to accept your resignation because it was almost impossible to safeguard your security. Is this rumor true?

[De Greiff] Well, I discussed my security and the problem of maintaining it with President Barco. The president also noted that I was going through a very difficult situation because I was separated from my family. I do believe that at this time I have all the security I need and I told him this. However, I was the one who made the decision. The president offered me an embassy position. I knew he would have to assign the Justice Ministry post to another person as this is logical and is his right. I, thus, presented my irrevocable resignation.

[Reporter] What do you believe you have attained as minister after occupying the post for such a brief period?

[De Greiff] My attachments? I believe I have attained for the country a very high image and have left the international community with an understanding of Colombia's struggle in these difficult times. We leave a Judicial Branch that is still weak in some aspects but is being strengthened and legal reforms that are under way and that will be enforced by the Executive Branch. [end recording]

Named Envoy to Portugal

P.1/1091/14589 Bogota Invasion Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 1223 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota—Upon leaving the ministry, outgoing Justice Minister Monica de Greiff Londo called on the Colombian people to support the battle undertaken by President Virgilio Barco Vargas against the various forms of violence. The former minister said that the battle will be fought by the authorities with the help of all the good citizens. Monica de Greiff said that she resigned because she understood that, by appointing her Colombian ambassador to Portugal, President Barco no longer needed her at the Justice Ministry. She is pleased with the work she did, especially her work to provide funds to protect the judges throughout the Republic,

adding that material and bullet-proof vehicles for the judicial branch officials will arrive in the country this weekend.

Carlos Lemus Simons Named New Justice Minister

P.1/1091/14189 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 2112 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota—Colombian Communications Minister Carlos Lemus Simons was placed in charge of the Justice Ministry to replace Monica de Greiff Londo who resigned from that position. The decision was made by President Virgilio Barco Vargas a few minutes ago and has been established in Decree No. 21-80, dated today. The presidential decree indicates that Minister de Greiff's resignation has been accepted and that the present Communications Minister Carlos Lemus Simons will replace her. Deputy Communications Minister Ximena Tapia de Ponce was placed in charge of the Communications Ministry.

Army Arrests 4 Suspects in Galan Murder Case

P.1/1091/16449 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 1602 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] The 13th Infantry Brigade has reported that following a series of actions by special urban troops, four persons who are apparently involved in the murder of Dr. Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento have been arrested. They are also connected to the car bomb attack on the newspaper EL ESPECTADOR, to a series of Bogota dynamite attacks, to the freeing of a group of paid assassins, and to the murder of Dr. Teofilo Forero Castro, his wife, and two other people who were accompanying them. General Ramon Eduardo Nieves Uzcategui, commander of the 13th Infantry Brigade has said that at least two of those arrested have fully confessed to having taken part in the murder of Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento in Soacha, Cundinamarca.

Arsenal of Suspected Killers Seized

P.1/1091/1689 Bogota Invasion Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 0004 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Thirteenth Brigade Commander General Ramon Eduardo Nieves today showed the entire arsenal that was seized from four members of a terrorist gang of hitmen. Two of the men are involved in the assassination of Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento. The terrorist plans of these men included attacks on government installations, state institutions, and security organizations. Gloria Congote has the report.

[Begin recording] [Congote] According to the Bogota 13th Brigade Commander Gen Ramon Eduardo Nieves Uzcategui, two of the four arrested men confessed to having taken part in the assassination of Luis Carlos Galan, and also pointed the finger at who had paid them to carry out the assassination. The two who have confessed are: Jose Orlando Chavez Fajardo, captured on the intersection of 75th Avenue and 72th Street, and

José Eduardo Rueda Rocha, owner of the *El Solitario* in which a car bomb was found yesterday, who was captured on 98-A Avenue at No. 7346.

At the 13th Brigade installations, Rueda Rocha admitted before a judge and the attorney general that he had shot at Luis Carlos Galán. He also admitted killing Pablo Cuaron, one of President Barco's bodyguards, as well as a Technical Judicial Police member. According to Gen Nuebles, Rueda Rocha is the leader of a group of hitmen—known as Los Negritos—who are hired by drug traffickers. Most of the hitmen are between 20 and 30 years old.

The third arrested suspect is Enrique Chavez Vargas, and the fourth suspect is Eberto Rueda Silva, who was captured on Avenue Boyaca and 1st May Street. Official reports indicate that Rueda Silva was the man carrying the poster at Soacha Square, and was watching the hitmen who assassinated Galán. [end recording]

[Nuebles] We know these four suspects participated in the assassination because two of them have already confessed to the act, which as I told you, involves the other two men. Of course, the judge conducting the investigation will have to determine whether or not these men are linked to the crime. [end recording]

[Congote] According to Gen Nuebles, this gang—from whom the authorities seized grenades, cartridge clips, explosives, Galil rifles, and submachineguns—also participated in the attack that destroyed part of El ESPECTADOR, in the liberation of a group of hitmen who were under arrest, in the assassination of Teófilo Forero Castro, his wife, and two other people, and in various terrorist attacks in Bogotá. Gen Nuebles added he has 4,000 men out on the Bogotá streets not only to ensure the safety of Bogotá citizens, but also because the authorities are pursuing four more suspects who have been fully identified and who also participated in Luis Carlos Galán's assassination.

M-19, Government Sign Peace Pact 24 Sep

PLAZA/MLN/Madrid EFE in Spanish 1917 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Bogotá, 24 Sep (EFE)—The guerrilla 19 April Movement (M-19) and the government today signed a "definite peace pact" that guarantees the laying down of weapons and the rebels' return to civilian and political life.

The agreement was signed at 1800 in "Villa Paz," the camp where the M-19 leaders and the Virgilio Barco administration have been negotiating since January.

Presidential peace adviser Rafael Pardo Rueda and Deputy Government Minister José Nue Rios travelled to "Villa Paz," in the mountains of Valle del Cauca, 300 km southwest of Bogotá, to sign the pact with M-19 Commander Carlos Pizarro Leongómez.

The signed document contains political and military agreements, some of which still have to be ratified by either the Congress, the executive branch, or the people through a referendum, a constitutional means which is currently under study.

The peace pact guarantees the M-19's participation in political life and foresees the participation of some of its members in the coming year's general elections.

During the almost 10-month negotiations, the guerrillas have insisted that modifications must be made to the constitution so as to guarantee a secret and obligatory vote, a multiparty system, and a special district [circumscription] so that the rebel groups can join civilian life.

Shortly after signing the document, M-19 Commander Carlos Pizarro said "this is not a surrender," but "a necessary change" to maintain the struggle now political, for the people.

"We will continue mobilizing the people, but without weapons," the commander added, stressing that the M-19 "has laid down weapons, but does not surrender them because this is not a surrender, it is a peace pact."

The M-19 is the first rebel group, of the six operating in the country, to benefit from the peace initiative. President Virgilio Barco has promoted since September 1988.

Financial Firms Placed Under Military Protection

PLAZA/PLN/Bogotá Invasión Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Report by Álvaro Avila]

[Text] In Bogotá, orders have been issued to place banks under permanent military protection. Last night, two bombs exploded at branches of the Popular and Occidente Banks in downtown Bogotá. A minor was wounded.

Taking advantage of the darkness, terrorists have set off 26 bombs over the past 15 days in Bogotá. Last night, they did not respect the fact that the bank branch was located near the church of Our Lady of Chiquinquira. The bomb was placed near the night deposit box. The explosion destroyed the facade of the Banco Popular and the window panes in adjoining buildings suffered the usual consequences. Fortunately, there were no victims.

At the same time, and two blocks down, another explosion broke the calm in the area. In this case, the bomb was placed at the Banco de Occidente branch located in the building of the (Marly Clinic). A minor that was passing by at the moment was injured and was immediately treated at the clinic itself.

In a timely action, the police managed to defuse three more bombs in other places in the city.

To stop the wave of attacks on banks and financial companies, the Defense Ministry this morning placed all

banking areas in the city under military control. The soldiers will remain in charge [al frente] of these installations around the clock.

Authorities Report 'Terrorist Plan' in Bogota

P12709411289 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota—Security measures in the capital have been substantially beefed up after the military and police forces discovered a terrorist plan against a state institution.

General Ramon Nieves Uzcategui, commander of the 13th Brigade, reported that the plan was discovered following investigations in southwestern Bogota, and more specifically at Carnaval District, where the police discovered a car with 100 kg of gelignite at a residence. The car had a slow-burning fuse and mechanisms to set it off.

During the same investigation, the authorities found a Toyota camper with 15 kg of dynamite, a powerful motorcycle, and other items typical of terrorist activities.

Continuing Violence in Bogota City Reported

EL ESPECTADOR Bombed

P12709614389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish
0123 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 22 September (DPA)—Another dynamite attack tonight against a branch office of the daily EL ESPECTADOR, west of Bogota, has resulted in injuries to a policeman and heavy property damage, it was officially reported.

According to the report, several men riding in an automobile threw a powerful bomb at the morning daily's office, injuring Nefredo Arevalo who was guarding the site.

On 2 September the main offices of EL ESPECTADOR were partially destroyed by a powerful bomb. That attack was attributed to the drug mafias against which the newspaper has continuously set itself.

Since that date, the narco-terrorists have carried out 30 dynamite attacks in Bogota, the new site of the "war" that began in Medellin.

Nine political party headquarters, state and private bank offices, business establishments, and private homes have been destroyed by bomb explosions in Bogota in the last 48 hours.

EL SIGLO Also Attacked

P12709613589 Paris AFP in Spanish 0007 GMT
23 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 22 Sep (AFP)—A distribution agency of the Bogota newspaper EL ESPECTADOR and the office

of the morning newspaper EL SIGLO were the targets of terrorist attacks tonight which left one policeman slightly injured and caused considerable damage. The authorities have reported.

In the first attack, a 5-kg dynamite charge exploded in a branch of EL ESPECTADOR in the suburb of Noveandia in the western part of Bogota.

A security guard was injured by the shattered glass caused by the impact of the explosion.

Although the newspaper office was not seriously damaged, some 10 homes nearby were.

The principal office of EL ESPECTADOR, a newspaper which has maintained a hardline position on drug trafficking and whose director was assassinated in December 1986, was the target of a violent car bomb attack 20 days ago.

In another terrorist action, several men in a vehicle opened fire on the offices of the newspaper EL SIGLO but nobody was injured.

This is the second attack of this kind against the newspaper in the past few days. The director of the newspaper is former presidential candidate Alvaro Gomez.

In view of the increased dynamite attacks since 22 September, when nine political offices and three bank branches were attacked, the Army and police have increased vigilance in Bogota.

Bomb Damages Building, Injures 1

P12709612289 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network
in Spanish 0104 GMT 23 Sep 89

[Text] There was an explosion in southern Bogota tonight at one of the Bogota telephone company installations. According to reports just received from the metropolitan police, the building was partially destroyed.

A security guard, who was inside the building, was seriously injured. The official report from the Bogota police said.

The bomb explosion took place in Chaya neighborhood on the corner of 14th Avenue and South 22d Street in southern Bogota.

Bomb Explodes at Theater

P12709610489 Bogota Inmigracion Television
Cadena 3 in Spanish 0147 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] A bomb went off a few minutes ago at a movie theater in downtown Bogota, between 22d Street and 7th Avenue.

An individual who entered the theater as a patron placed the bomb in the men's room.

According to official reports, a man identified as Orlando Cubillo Rodriguez was injured.

4 Bombs Explode Throughout City

PL25090125300 Bogota Invasión: Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 0105 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] While Colombians watched a soccer game between Ecuador and Paraguay this afternoon, terrorists availed themselves of the opportunity to place four more bombs in various places throughout Bogotá. The capital has been the target of six terrorist attacks during the last 24 hours.

The first bomb exploded at a building located on the corner of 7th Street and 56th Avenue, the area where 50 kg of dynamite exploded 3 months ago in an attempt to kill General Miguel Alfredo Maza. Repairs to the building's damaged windows had not been completed and now the first floor, where the Avianca Airline's offices are located, has been totally destroyed.

A dynamite explosion that occurred 3 blocks away on 13th Street and 56th Avenue has completely destroyed the headquarters of Las Villas Corporation.

The authorities were able to defuse another bomb a short distance away on 13th Street and 57th Avenue but terrorists also reached 1 May Avenue and 55th Street, where the COLDENARROJO (expansion unknown) offices were destroyed by a 2-kg package of dynamite. The public has denounced today's attacks, which left no casualties.

Medellin Patrol Attacked

PL25090125780 Bogota Radio: Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 1212 GMT 25 Sep 89

[Text] A soldier was injured when a bomb exploded in the Las Villas Housing and Savings Corporation located on 13th Street and 55th Avenue in Bogotá. The bomb also caused severe damage to neighboring buildings, especially the Cedrox Furniture Store which is next to the savings corporation.

A witness reported that several individuals in a blue BMW were responsible for this new terrorist action. The witness said the soldier was cut with broken glass as he was about to pursue the criminals. The owner of the furniture store said the losses are heavy and the repair of the store, which was virtually destroyed along with the Las Villas Housing and Savings Corporation, will take several days.

Meanwhile in Medellín, a metropolitan police patrol was attacked with low-intensity explosives in the north-eastern section of the capital of Antioquia early this morning. One criminal was killed, three were captured, and a policeman was slightly wounded. An official report stated that four individuals attacked a police patrol on 123rd Street and 4th Avenue. An approximately 20-year-old unidentified criminal was killed. Policeman

Luis Garabito Vega was slightly wounded. Uriel Rodríguez Carballo, 18, Vilma Salazar Casas, 21, and Julio Cesar Castellón, 24, were arrested. Weapons were taken from them.

18 Sep Clashes Between Soldiers, Guerrillas, Noided

PL25090150680 Paris: AFP in Spanish 0416 GMT
18 Sep 89

[Text] Bogotá, 17 Sep (AFP)—A military spokesman has said that two policemen and three guerrillas were killed today during clashes in different parts of Colombia.

In a public establishment in a village near Bugnagrande, Cauca Department, 500 km west of Bogotá, seven men, who had resisted a routine search, attacked a police detachment and killed two policemen who had killed one of the group.

Sources from the Army's Third Brigade, with headquarters in Cali, the capital of the department, said that the attackers were apparently members of the 21st Front of the Communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC, pro-Soviet).

Meanwhile, the Army's Fourth Brigade, with headquarters in Medellín, has declared that two alleged members of the Army of National Liberation (ELN, pro-Cuban) were killed in a clash with regular troops who seized weapons and war material near Salgar, Antioquia Department, 550 km northwest of Bogotá.

Paraguay

President Rodriguez Leaves for UN Meeting

PV3609111200 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1613 GMT 24 Sep 89

[Text] Asunción, 24 Sep (EFE)—Paraguayan President General Andres Rodriguez left for New York on 24 September to attend the UN General Assembly, where he will deliver a speech on 26 September.

President Rodriguez' entourage consists of Foreign Minister Luis María Argana, Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) leader Domingo Lauro, Freteerista Revolutionary Party (PRF) leader Euclides Acevedo, Industry and Trade Minister Antonio Zuccolillo, economic sector officials, and more than 40 businessmen.

In his speech to the United Nations, Rodriguez will comment on the democratization of Paraguay after the coup d'état that ousted General Alfredo Stroessner's de facto regime on 3 February and on the presidential elections that were held on 1 May 1989.

President Rodriguez will meet with International Development Bank Chairman Enrique Iglesias and with U.S. banker David Rockefeller.

Leaders, Papers React to Military Communique

Rodriguez on Communique

PY209016659 *Asuncion UT TIME HORR* in Spanish
22 Sep 89 p 9

[Text] Pita—"I have not read this communique yet. I have not had time to do so." This is what President Andres Rodriguez said today when asked his opinion on the communique that was released yesterday by the Paraguayan Armed Forces in which they stated their concern over the political situation in the country and recommended that the Colorado Party strive for coexistence and harmony.

"I have not had time to read this communique. I know that you journalists start reading things very early in the morning. I want to congratulate you for this, because I believe that your role in society is more than a service; it is a mission," the president said.

He stressed that the journalists' mission "is to educate the people continually through every means available, to disseminate cultural, moral, and religious guidelines and standards of behavior for the entire people, whom they serve honestly and faithfully." Thus President Rodriguez praised the work of the Paraguayan news media.

In their communique the Armed Forces expressed their unconditional loyalty to all the projects of General Rodriguez' administration.

Vice Admiral on Communique

PY209016809 *Asuncion RPT Television Network*
in Spanish 2150 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Navy Commander Vice Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit, one of the high-ranking officers who signed the military communique, this morning talked about the motives for the communique.

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez Petit] The struggle for political power is unrelenting, constant, entirely democratic, and of course correct. However, there seems to be constant buckering about small things, which only slows down the dynamism of General Rodriguez' government. That is our opinion. There is an unnecessary delay and waste of time on petty quarrels. Some people waste a lot of time talking about small incidents instead of addressing the important issues.

[Reporter] Did you also consider what to do if your ideas are not addressed?

[Gonzalez Petit] No. Nothing of the sort. We have only expressed our opinion. This should not be interpreted as a warning or a threat—not at all. It is our appreciation of the situation. We called on all Paraguayans to cooperate with Gen Rodriguez' government, because we paid a high price to be where we are now and we should not waste time on unimportant matters. We have to make the maximum effort now if we want to put our country on its feet.

[Reporter] Is it possible that the Armed Forces are much more committed to democratization than some civilian sectors?

[Gonzalez Petit] Not really. All Paraguayan citizens are in the same situation. I do not believe we are more committed than others. We made the initial effort; that is all. We only anticipate "the fall," because there were so many things wrong with the previous government that it was about to fall by itself. It only needed a little push, and that is what the Armed Forces did. From that point on, all Paraguayans have been responsible for the democratic process. [end recording]

Further on Navy Chief's Comment

PY209016889 *Asuncion HOR* in Spanish
22 Sep 89 pp 6.

[Excerpts] Navy Commander Vice Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit has defended the recent communique issued by the Armed Forces. According to Gonzalez Petit, the members of the Armed Forces have merely used the communique to express their opinion to the public, just as other national sectors have issued their opinions about the current situation in our country. [passage omitted]

Gonzalez Petit said, "We must respect the laws and the Constitution. That is what freedom and democracy are all about, isn't it? We must respect the rights of others. Those who do not exercise their rights lose them. However, our rights end where the rights of others begin."

He said, "There cannot be illegal occupation of lands in a democratic country. We have interpreted these illegal occupations as acts of sabotage, actions against the government. Some people are investigating the peasants to occupy land illegally. The land distribution problem is a long-standing and difficult issue, but a solution is being sought."

The Navy chief stated, "It is absolutely impossible for us to tolerate the illegal occupation of land. This call to good sense and unity has not been issued only to a specific political sector. This appeal to peace has been issued to all sectors, because there is aggressive news in all gatherings." [passage omitted]

Colorado Party Statement

PY209017189 *Asuncion RPT Television Network*
in Spanish 2150 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Communique read by Colorado Party Spokesman Atilio R. Fernandez; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Colorado Party followers throughout the country

The Colorado Party, guardian of the tradition and honor of the fatherland, shares and supports the implicit message of unity contained in the declaration of the Armed Forces commanders because it is in accordance with our constant position of struggling for harmony and unity.

within our glorious party and for peaceful coexistence and mutual respect among all citizens and party followers.

The concerns of the Armed Forces, as expressed by their most qualified spokesmen, are the same ones that we have repeatedly voiced and to which we are politically committed. We are sure that the peaceful coexistence of all of our party members and all Paraguayans and respect for our authorities are essential elements in our harmonious coexistence and a determining factor in the implementation of political, economic, and social policies necessary to build a modern and democratic country.

In view of the important document issued by the highest-ranking military officers, the Colorado Party, faithful to its tradition and honor, urges all party followers to participate in a grand act of Colorado unity, fraternal and respectful, to serve as proof of our republican faith and to promote national harmony.

Asuncion, 22 September 1989.

Signat: Juan Ramon Chavez, president;
Luis Maria Argana, first vice president;
Julio L. Yonfran, second vice president;
Blas N. Riquelme, third vice president.

Laine on Communiqué

PT 200214000 Asuncion 18C CTHOR
in Spanish 27 Sep 89 p.6

[Text] Domingo Laine, second vice president of the Senate and president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, has commented on the communiqué recently issued by various military chiefs. He stated, "I still see no real reason for the communiqué. I am looking at this issue from the point of view of an optimistic politician. I think things are developing in a perfectly controlled, ultraautomatic manner; the process has not gotten out of hand. At least, this is my impression."

Laine, in response to a question, noted that he thought that the communiqué issued by the Armed Forces commanders should have been clearer. He said, "I have read it, but I have not been able to reach a clear conclusion on what they are trying to say. I think they should have been more clear so that we could all understand what they are really saying."

When asked about whether the communiqué in some way referred to certain sectors' criticisms of the Armed Forces regarding their participation in dislodging squatters, Laine said, "I think we should all be able to accept criticism." He then added that "any communiqué is acceptable within a democratic framework. The church voices its opinion, the Armed Forces can voice their opinion, the political parties can voice their opinions, and the landless peasants can voice their opinions. This is what democracy is all about."

Laine also noted that he would rather, that the Armed Forces not be involved with any political party.

Laine Says 'Step Backward'

PT 200214000 Asuncion 18C in Spanish
27 Sep 89 p.7

[Text] Senator Domingo Laine has described the reference in the Armed Forces Communiqué regarding the unity of the Colorado Party "in government" as "a complete step backward." He added that the passage stating that the Armed Forces are alert and vigilant "sounds like intimidation." Asked about the introduction to the communiqué, Laine said he thought it was fine and understandable.

Laine added, "We believe that the passage referring to the 1 February proclamation issued by General Rondignier, who called for the complete unity of the Colorado Party in government, is a step backward. This was the unfortunate aspect of the proclamation; it continues to glorify the Armed Forces with a single political party and is thus an attempt to show the people that the unity of the Colorado Party is the basis of Paraguayan democracy, and this is false."

Laine said, "Paraguayan democracy is based on the unity of the Paraguayan people, not on the unity of a single political party. This takes us back to the times of Natalicio González [Paraguayan president from 1948-1949], who said 'Only the Colorado Party will save Paraguay.' It is time to overcome these thoughts. A national issue cannot be handled by one sector. This is why we view this as a step backward."

He added, "As for the part in which they reassert—this is what the communiqué states—their goal of remaining alert and vigilant, it sounds like intimidation, although that may not be the intention."

MEOPC O Leader Comments

PT 200214000 Asuncion 1711A1A HORA in Spanish
27 Sep 89 p.8

[Text] MEOPC O [Colorado Popular Movement] leader Waldino Ramon Lovera has said that the Armed Forces' communiqué is unjustified because it is the civilian sector that should now carry on with the process. The Armed Forces, though, have fulfilled a major role, he noted.

"Even though I think that the Armed Forces were driven by good intentions, I believe that their intervention in national political life is now unjustified," Lovera said.

He stressed that the Armed Forces fulfilled a major role by ending the corrupt and violent Stroessnerist regime, that they issued a valuable 5-point proclamation, and that it is necessary to struggle to attain the objectives of the proclamation.

"From that point on, however, I believe that it is the political organizations that should, without exclusion, work for those democratic objectives and try to consolidate the process. For me, this is a task to be undertaken by the political class," he stressed.

Lovera noted that the communiqué "is unjustified because I believe that social organizations and the political class are mature and that they have the experience of the struggle against the dictatorship."

Asked whether the Armed Forces may have issued their communiqué because the various political sectors and politicians have failed to reach an accord, Lovera replied, "I don't think so. The important thing now is to understand clearly that we are going through a significant time after the great chaos of the violent and corrupt Stroessnerist regime, which is now over. Now freedom prevails and all of us share our aspirations for democracy and social justice."

Lovera added, "I want to stress the big contrast between the Stroessnerist regime and the current situation. We cannot expect that our process will have no traumatic features at all. We should recall that we have just ended a period of 35 years of authoritarianism and that we have just begun living in what I call the fascinating world of freedom. Consequently, I can understand the reason for the changes and the threats that have been made. That is part of the struggle for democracy, and democracy, by definition, should be able to solve conflicts. The mission of politicians, therefore, is to work and consolidate the process. As I see it, though, there should be no outside intervention. This is the time for the political class and for the social organizations to struggle to consolidate the democratic process."

ABC on Communiqué

PI 2209/1454v Answer: ABC. CUBER in Spanish
22 Sep 89 p 10

[Editorial: "The Armed Forces Issue Communiqué"]

[Text] A political regime cannot be labeled civilian or military simply because it is led by a civilian or a military president. This will become noticeable as a result of the way in which the country is run.

In a civilian administration, which may be headed by a civilian or by a military president, the Armed Forces are merely an armed branch of the state. They are not a deliberating body; they are simply one of the state's operational organizations and consequently are subordinate to public authority and laws under their commander in chief, the president of the Republic.

In reality, however, the Armed Forces are one of the best developed institutions, particularly in the less developed countries. They usually have more resources, and better equipment and personnel, making them capable of undertaking any task. The Armed Forces cadre of chiefs and officers is one of the social sectors within the state that has the greatest professional training, expert discipline, and love for the institution. It is also true that the Armed Forces usually hold a position of great prestige in society. As a result of all that, they are commonly and rightfully a source of power in society. As a source of power, the Armed Forces have the right to help—but

nothing more than help—the government in its task of constructing the present and the future of the nation.

Paraguay is trying to leave behind a long, dark period, in which institutionalism was disrespected and often threatened. It would be very easy—but not entirely fair—to put all the blame for this dark period on Alfredo Stroessner's regime. The real truth, however, is that our institutional crisis originated long before Stroessner's regime.

The situation is now more promising thanks to the Armed Forces, but there is also some disorder in our national life. This should not come as a surprise. It is natural to experience disorder after such a long time of silence and repressive leadership which, although preventing these institutional evils from surfacing, did not eliminate them. It is therefore natural for these disorders, which already existed in the bosom of our society, to come to the surface. In general terms, however, these disorders are superficial and can be solved through obedience to the laws. Time will also help to solve these problems, particularly the internal problems of the political parties. We are sure that with time the best qualified and most significant members of the parties will stand out.

Although written in a moderate tone and containing many concepts that are shared by most, the "joint communiqué," which was recently released by high-ranking military chiefs, is conceptually wrong and dangerous for the future of the country, as this sort of thing has been wrong and dangerous in the past. The conceptual mistake is that it allows the Armed Forces to attribute to themselves the role of protagonists. There is a small difference between this role and the belief that the Armed Forces are the ultimate representatives of the legality and welfare of the Republic. It makes them believe that they have powers above the Constitution, being thus in a position to impose their authority on the government. If this small difference ever comes to exist, the country will again be plunged into an anachronistic backwardness.

The "joint communiqué" teaches us something. It teaches us that civilians and the military must deeply meditate on their mutual relations and must find an adequate answer that will effectively contribute to the definitive consolidation of the civilian administration. Only civilian administrations can be really compatible with the principles of freedom and democracy that have always been our goals.

PATRIA on Communiqué

PI 2209/22508v Answer: PATRIA in Spanish
22 Sep 89 p 6

[Editorial: "The Armed Forces' Genuine Concern"]

[Text] In our editorials we have always maintained that democracy must be understood. This is the same democracy we are experiencing today, eliminating arrogance,

decent, and insolence, defending our superior ideals, and supporting the true institutionalization of the country by rescuing moral values and by striving to achieve the well-being of all Paraguayans. This modern and just nation has confronted this undertaking with determination, intelligence, and courage.

In a communique issued yesterday, the Armed Forces carefully reviewed their commitment to society. They note that the political parties serve an important role as channels of expression for the people's wishes and thoughts. They also warn that the concept of democracy has been incorrectly understood, but that when "properly understood, it allows the free exercise of individual rights but imposes an obligation to act within the framework of the law and respect for authorities."

But as we have said in the past, political agitation tactics are well-known throughout the world. They have been denounced by politicians and writers in all countries. But while these tactics attempt to smear governments, they are only undermining any positive activity that might be undertaken for the people's well-being.

It is not a question of invoking rights, but of remembering those commitments that have been assumed throughout history and for the future. Political parties are the basis of democracy. The struggle of democratic parties against totalitarian ideologies is perhaps the greatest and most difficult task we are now facing, because foreign ideologies are striving to replace those ideals that are intrinsic to our way of life.

At the internal party level, the Colorado Party will persistently seek to achieve the established objectives. The democratic restoration process continues. It is not the Colorado Party's intention to govern in favor of any particular sector or group. It is imbued with a great patriotic spirit and, in this new stage, we know that there is a place for every compatriot.

We just want to add these thoughts to the genuine concern of the Armed Forces. Their concern highlights the irrefutable truths about the problems that must be resolved. All Paraguayan democratic sectors must still seek to resolve social injustices and give back to the people a country based on the moral and patriotic ideals that inspired our forefathers.

Today our Armed Forces have recovered their dignity. We can see their solidarity with the task of rebuilding the nation. They have become a creative social force without overlooking their specific duties as guardians of our country's sovereignty.

ULTIMA HORA on ~~Communique~~

PY 2/09/14/889. *Comunicación ULTIMA HORA* in Spanish
22 Sep 89 p. 14

[Editorial: "Thought-Provoking Armed Forces' Communique"]

[Text] What is the current institutional situation of the government? Does the government derive its power from the military coup or from the latest elections. If the word *derive* refers to an origin, then we must say that the government's power comes from the coup and is sustained by the Armed Forces. However, if we want to define the basis of its power and legitimacy, then we should note that the current government derives institutionally from the elections. The basis of its power, therefore, is not the Armed Forces, but the will of the people.

The institutional situation of the government is the mandate it received from the people, which is the source of its legitimacy. The government is then obligated to obey the laws and to recognize that there are two powers above it: the people's sovereignty and the law.

This is the invariable rule of the republican system.

From the moment the government, and along with it the Armed Forces, which initially contributed to its creation, made a commitment "to install" democracy in our country, they were obligated to recognize a single ruler, a "determining" factor.

That single ruler is the people or popular sovereignty.

From that perspective the Armed Forces must subordinate themselves to the legitimate power and must fulfill their mission in accordance with the Constitution and the laws. They are not to "judge" the acts of the government or become a force to intervene to change or correct the political process. Under those conditions it seems proper that the communique reaffirmed the loyalty of the Armed Forces to the government.

That is the position they must take under an institutional system.

Furthermore, their "vigilant" attitude can be dangerous. It may show an interventionist position, which is not among their legitimate rights.

From another point of view, the reaffirmation of their loyalty to the government and their desire for democratization can be considered appropriate. It may well be intended to discourage some disguised threats of a coup, which could indeed end our process and take us back to obsolete authoritarian rule.

The concern expressed over the Colorado Party would be justified if it were aimed at creating harmony in the party in order to carry out its real democratization.

Progress toward installing democracy in the country permanently cannot be made by hiding problems but by extending freedom to the entire Paraguayan society. Social conflicts can only be a challenge to our ability to respect freedom and human rights. This challenge obviously also affects the Armed Forces.

The important thing in this new stage, after many decades, is the return to institutionality. The Armed

Forces have an unavoidable commitment in this regard. Their contribution in this direction will probably be one of the most valuable contributions for helping Paraguay really move ahead toward democracy and the modern world.

Finance Minister on Recovery of Embezzled Money

PY 220919Z089 Asuncion U L TIME HORA in Spanish
22 Sep 89 p 11

[Text] Last night Finance Minister Enos Debernardi informed the Senate that the Finance Ministry had received assets worth 10 billion guaranes, but not a single guarani of the embezzled wealth that has been recovered. He also said that the INC [National Cement Industry] debt to the BCP [Paraguayan Central Bank] amounts to \$197 million, more than 19 billion guaranes [figures as published]. Debernardi said that our country will only pay back the foreign debt that was approved by law.

Last night, when asked about the recovery of state assets embezzled during the past regime, Minister Debernardi said: "The wealth that is being returned is being handed over to the Finance Ministry, which is in charge of receiving it. The money, therefore, will be placed in the National Treasury and the real estate will become part of the state's patrimony. Whatever cannot be used in the land reform program—because it cannot be divided and turned over to the peasants due to its nature—will be auctioned publicly. So far we have not received any money, but there are indications that money will soon be deposited."

When asked by Senator Romero Pereira about the 300 million guaranes returned by the IPVI [Paraguayan Housing and Urban Planning Institute] he said: "The Finance Ministry did not intervene in this case. Therefore, Senator, I am sorry I cannot give you a concrete answer because this money was not returned through the channels established by the executive branch."

Debernardi also said that this year's estimated inflation rate of approximately 30 percent was not caused by the public enterprises that received loans, because they were not granted preferential exchange rates. He said that inflation was triggered, first, by the adoption of a single exchange rate, which had an impact on the utility rates and the prices of imported goods, and, second, by the large money supply generated by the redoubant operations for harvesting crops.

When asked about the INC debt with the BCP, the finance minister answered that the BCP has made a disbursement of \$197,290,000 as well as two more disbursements of 7,464,200,000 guaranes and 32,600,000,000 guaranes. This contradicts Industry and Commerce Ministry officials who have asserted that the INC debt to the BCP only amounts to \$90 million.

He also said that Paraguay will only acknowledge the portion of the foreign debt that has been approved by

Congress: "The Finance Ministry is only responsible for the debt contracted legally, that is, the debt authorized by the national laws."

Peru

Garcia: Ministers Must Resign To Run in Election

PY 220919Z089 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0100 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Excerpt] President Alan Garcia today said that Peruvian economic growth will be 1 or 2 percent. He also said the IMF has proposed a program that signifies the beginning of a radical change in the foreign debt policy. President Garcia made these comments after the regular meeting of the Council of Ministers at the Government Palace on Thursday. Garcia also said that Luis Alberto Sanchez, chairman of the Council of Ministers, will leave his office in the next few days.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr. President, Health Minister David Tejeda announced his resignation yesterday. Have you decided who will replace him and who will be the ministers of your new cabinet?

[Garcia] First, I must express my regret over fellow party member David Tejeda's irrevocable decision to resign. Tejeda, who is an internationally famous doctor, is resigning for health reasons. As there will be a cabinet reshuffle soon, before accepting Tejeda's resignation I decided to appoint Labor Minister Orestes Rodriguez as acting health minister. Rodriguez will renew contact with the institutions involved in the current conflict over medicine. I believe a balance between the people's need for medicine and the fluctuations in the cost of manufacturing medicine can be reached. I am also sure that talks will lead to a prompt solution of this problem and to the reopening of the drugstores, which will have plenty of medicine to sell. It is almost not to be able to discuss the matter and find a favorable solution to the problem of manufacturing good medicine at a reasonable price.

[Reporter] Apparently, it has been decided not to accept the 40-percent increase that the drugstore owners are insisting on?

[Garcia] I am sure that talks will lead to a fair solution. The industrialists do not expect immediate profits. They have prosperous employees, workers, and long-term planning. I am sure that talks will lead to a consensus, which will surely not be the widely reported 40 percent that created the entire problem.

[Reporter] When will the cabinet be reshuffled? Since the deadline for electoral registration is 3 October, when do you believe Dr. Sanchez will resign as Prime Minister?

[Garcia] It is well known that Luis Alberto's great political and intellectual capacity would be an important contribution to our party's presidential ticket. That has been reported in all the newspapers and mentioned by all the commentators. He will be a candidate for senator. I

before Luis Alberto has all the necessary qualities of a good candidate. I am very happy about his performance as prime minister. It has been an honor for the executive branch, and especially for me, to have him as a prime minister. We all know, however, that he will have to leave this position in a few days to face his electoral responsibilities as a candidate for senator and vice president. As he is the chairman of the Council of Ministers, his resignation will have to be followed by the resignation of the entire cabinet. I am sure that in a few days the name of the new prime minister will be announced and that the current ministers will be confirmed in their positions. Whenever a minister resigns, the rumors about a cabinet crisis start. There is no such crisis. The ruling party assigned a mission to Dr. Sanchez, who will contribute to the electoral campaign and to APRA's [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] possibilities for victory. This decision must not be seen as a ministerial crisis, as the opposition would like. Some opposition rumors state that the economic crisis is so serious that Dr. Sanchez had to resign. Other rumors state that the president of the Republic and the minister clashed. There is definitely no crisis. There is simply a reshuffle to make better use of personalities and political capacities, thus helping the ruling party to face the electoral challenge more effectively. One way or the other, there will be a cabinet reshuffle. It is not the result of a crisis. I suppose that some of the ministers will run in the elections as senator and deputy candidates.

[Reporter] What ministers will have new leaders?

[Garcia] Let us wait for the ministers to decide if they want to run in the elections or not, and whether the ruling party, to which they belong just as I do, will assign them any electoral responsibility. [passage omitted]

President Garcia Explains New IMF Proposal

PY220041889 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
1100 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Excerpt] President Alan Garcia has stated that Peru will experience an economic growth of 1 or 2 percent. He added that the IMF has made a proposal that represents a radical change in the foreign debt policy. Garcia made these remarks at the end of the meeting of the council of ministers.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Reporter] What can you tell us, Mr. President, about the economy minister's visit? [not further identified]

[Garcia] I would rather have the economy minister himself tell you about that. What I would like to tell you is that Abel Salinas, who has been in charge of holding the recent talks with the IMF board, has told us very important things that perhaps represent a radical change in the IMF policy. This means that if we maintain firm, calm positions, we will be able to change the international institutions.

Salinas has told me that the IMF has made both a proposal that, although insufficient, implies the beginning of a change and the beginning, perhaps, of a possible dialogue. As you know, we have a overdue debt payment of \$800 million to the IMF, and a few months ago, we were told to pay the \$800 million in order to begin talks with the IMF. We would have been very stupid to use all our reserves to pay that debt in order to begin talks.

Now the proposal is different. The IMF directors are saying: For the time being let us not talk about the \$800 million, but about that will fall due within the next 2 months, which amounts to some \$10 or \$12 million. For the payment of the overdue \$800 million, we are going to obtain a loan from several countries.

Salinas, on behalf of the Peruvian Government, has answered that we agree, but that we want this \$800-million bridge loan to be granted for a 20-year term and with interest lower than what is commercially charged. Moreover, considering the commitment by Peru and the IMF to obtaining this bridge loan, and since we are about to pay the \$800-million debt, we are already asking for fresh money: a new \$500-million standby loan for the reactivation of Peru's mining and economic sectors.

Once these requirements are fulfilled, Peru will be able to begin paying what falls due every month. We will also be willing to listen to suggestions about economic programs, provided that those programs will guarantee, for this year and the years to come, that gross domestic product will grow, that salaries will not lose their purchasing power, and that the government will be able to protect the people with the lowest incomes.

Of course this proposal made by Salinas will have to be assessed by the IMF. That is a matter of negotiation. We must ask what is good for our country, and not adapt ourselves or bow down before the ideas of an international institution. I really think that the latest IMF proposal, which has prompted this dialogue, means that things are changing little by little, and that with firm and sovereign decision things can be changed. [end recording]

Terrorists Take Over News Agencies, Escape

PY2200211789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2033 GMT
23 Sep 89

[Text] Lima, 23 Sep (EFE)—Spokesmen for the AFP and UPI news agencies have reported that terrorists from the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) today occupied the offices of these two news agencies and forced their personnel to transmit a communique.

AFP editor Reynaldo Munoz and UPI manager Huber Cam reported that the terrorists, communique described these Latin American administrations that have reached agreements on their foreign debt with the IMF as "traitors."

Munoz and Cam added that the communique also carried greetings to the delegates of 29 countries who are in Lima to attend a 3-day meeting of the "court" that is "trying" those responsible for the consequences that the foreign debt has caused for the peoples of indebted countries.

The road of the AFP and UPI offices took place one 2 weeks before a scheduled meeting of the Group of Eight presidents, who will discuss regional foreign debt and the authoritarian struggle.

The presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela will meet in Ica, 300 km south of Lima. Panama will not attend this meeting because of its suspension as a member of the Group of Eight due to its political situation.

Munoz and Cam indicated that the terrorists apparently forced the personnel of the two news agencies to send out the communique at gunpoint and then tied them up.

"We agreed to what they wanted and nothing happened to us," Munoz said. Cam confirmed that "there have been no problems, everything is all right."

Cam added that the subversive groups also painted slogans on the office walls, including "Glory to the dead martyrs," "The people and arms will bring victory to the MRTA," and "Long live the armed struggle."

Shining Path Claims Responsibility for Murder

PY2209144189 Madrid EFE in Spanish (3/1) GMT
22 Sep 89

[Text] Ayacucho, 21 Sep (EFE)—The Peruvian terrorist group Shining Path today claimed responsibility for the 19 September murder of Ayacucho Mayor Fermin Arparrent. Shining Path sent a communique to two radio stations.

In the communique, the terrorist organization reiterates its decision to boycott the 17 November municipal elections, and it makes death threats against all mayors and city council candidates throughout Ayacucho Department who do not withdraw their candidacies.

Shining Path said in the communique that the candidates have 24 hours to announce their withdrawal.

Ayacucho's electoral service recently reported that 21 mayoral candidates, mostly from the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA), have been intimidated into withdrawing.

Shining Path gave no reason for murdering Arparrent, a Communist Party militant, and as such, a member of the United Left, a coalition of Marxist and Socialist parties.

Arparrent had previously survived five other attacks on his life by Shining Path "revolutionary squads." He was also the subject of four attacks carried out by the paramilitary group "Bandera Franco Command."

Arparrent was buried in Ayacucho today. Meanwhile, the police continue to search for the murderers, three young men who shot the mayor as he was attending to his private business.

Ruling APRA Launches Presidential Ticket

PY2209161489 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
1 000 GMT 21 Sep 89

[Text] During a crowded rally at San Martin Square, the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] last night proclaimed its presidential ticket for the 1990 general elections. The ticket includes Luis Alva Castro as presidential candidate and Luis Alberto Sanchez and Javier Valle Riestra as candidates for the first and second vice presidencies, respectively.

Barrantes Withdraws From II Elections

PY2209224189 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
1 000 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Alfonso Barrantes Lingan has confirmed that he will not participate in the United Left (IU) internal elections. Barrantes, a former Lima mayor, stated that he was withdrawing from the IU because of its limited number of active militants. Barrantes said that this situation was evident from the recent elections when the ultraleft won an overwhelming majority. He expressed surprise over the fact that only 15,000 militants, of a total of 150,000 who registered, turned up for those elections.

Senator Javier Diez Canseco has termed Barrantes' remarks as despotic, and recalled that Barrantes was elected mayor of Lima by only 3,000 militants. His actions and words are not democratic because he overlooks the militants' right to choose. Diez Canseco stated:

Uruguay

U.S. Asked To Respect Central American Accords

PY2209192089 Montevideo LA HOJA POPULAR
in Spanish 18 Sep 89 p. 2

[Text] Uruguayan lawmakers from several sectors have issued a statement in which they support the Central American peace accords and the principles of self-determination and nonintervention. Herewith the text of the statement:

The accord reached by five Central American governments in Honduras is producing the first steps to end the aggression against Nicaragua and the principles of non-intervention and self-determination are being reasserted. At this time, we, the undersigned Uruguayan lawmakers from several democratic sectors, concerned about the international repercussions of this situation—particularly in Latin American nations—hereby announce following decisions:

1) To call upon those responsible for the success of the peace-seeking measures, especially the U.S. Government, which, because of its support for an unjust and dramatic situation that the Central American countries now want to change, must not hinder the implementation of the measures.

2) To state that the implementation of the measures agreed upon at the presidential meeting in Honduras will mean that the sister nations will take collective action to transform a situation that has gone beyond the framework of politics, and is now affecting other human and social factors.

3) To pass this statement to the Foreign Ministry and to the ambassadors of the countries involved, and to release it to the public.

(Signed) Carlos Negro (FA [Broad Front]), Jose Diaz (FA), Hector Lescano (PIN [Christian Democratic Party]), Carlos Bertachi (PGP [Party for the Government by the People]), Lucas Pittaluga (FA), Yamandu Pau (PGP), Carlos Cassina (PGP), Eden Melo (PGP), E. McAlister (PGP), Clemente Munoz (PGP), Ramon Guandulupi (FA), Juan J. Fuentes (PN [National Party]), Guillermo Alvarez (FA), Rosa Pama (UJ [Civil Union]), Luis J. Martinez (PN), Nelson Lorenzo Rovira (FA), Andres Toranzo (FA), Juan P. Ciganda (FV), Victor Vaillant (PC [Colorado Party]), Horacio Muniz (PN), Alex Garcia (PN), Gonzalo Carambula (FA), Gilberto Ruiz (FA), and Oscar Lopez Balestra (PN).

Venezuela

Perez Calls for Unity on Foreign Debt Issue

PL/0000/000 Caracas: *Venezolana de Televisión*
Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Report by Noralba Jimenez on speech by President Carlos Andres Perez at the Ayacucho Room in the Miraflores Palace on 22 Sep—recorded]

[Text] [Jimenez] The Ayacucho Room of the Miraflores Palace was packed today. Top representatives from the various national sectors responded to the president's call for the first meeting—this one was informative—on the foreign debt renegotiation and the steps taken by the current administration in that direction.

President Perez delivered a brief speech in which he stressed the need to achieve a national consensus. He said that the main objective would be holding meetings, consultations, and debates, as the topic is of national interest and does not just concern the government, although legally the government is solely responsible for conducting the negotiations.

[Perez] Of course, you must recognize that there are many things that cannot be publicized, as they are part of the daily discussions within a certain strategy. We cannot disclose everything, however, there is no doubt that some sectors and responsible groups in the country must be kept well-informed of our actions. Therefore, since we have begun this process, we will hold periodic

meetings. We will create a mechanism to conduct these meetings and keep you well-informed, and also to hear your ideas, which can be important contributions to our current efforts.

[Jimenez] President Perez changed the subject from Venezuelan to international affairs. He severely criticized the current economic system, in which it seems that the so-called Third World countries do not have a right to development. In that regard, he insisted on his proposal to seek concerted international efforts in achieving a new economic system. He said that the idea would be implementing a new type of relations.

[Perez] These negotiations with the banks, from the standpoint of reality, are a kind of war, a financial or economic war in which each one wants to use all the weapons available to defend its own interests, and there are interests involved. Banks are organizations that have electronic brains. They do not have hearts or souls. They are businesses, and they do business for the benefit of shareholders. Therefore, they do not have to deal with the social realities in our countries. They only deal with their records and statistics and the reports they must submit to their shareholders on how much profit is made each year.

We all know that what is happening, the positions maintained by each side, are natural and normal. Therefore, just as they unite to defend their interests, we Venezuelans, we Latin Americans, the people in developing nations, must also unite in order to face this situation, this financial conflict.

[Jimenez] Although the position of creditor banks and industrialized countries in general continues to be a hard one, President Perez admitted that the presidents of the leading countries have acquired some degree of sensitivity toward the social problems resulting from strict foreign debt payments. President Perez attributed this new attitude from the industrialized countries to the constant exchange of views and meetings with the heads of state of the leading nations. In that regard, President Perez briefly referred to his next visit to the United Nations and Lima, Peru, where he will meet with members of the Group of Eight, with whom he will of course discuss the foreign debt problem.

Nicaraguan Candidates, Perez Discuss Elections

PL/0000/000 Caracas: *Venezolana de Televisión*
Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Sep 89

[Text] Nicaragua needs the solidarity and good will of Latin America, Nicaraguan presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro said during a meeting with President Carlos Andres Perez at the Miraflores Presidential Palace. Telling the president that the Nicaraguan people hope democracy will triumph on 25 February, Chamorro expressed her own hopes that Nicaragua will finally embark on an irreversible democratic process.

The presidential candidate, who was nominated by the National Opposition Union, was accompanied by her vice presidential candidate Virginia Gordo, who said that a number of strategies are being implemented to guarantee honest elections.

[Begin recording] [Gordo] We are making efforts to ensure honest elections, and are encouraging massive opposition participation to keep a watchful eye on the Ballot-Receiving Boards, International UN and OAS observers, as well as the organization that is made up of 15 democratic leaders, including President Perez and former U.S. President Carter, are also playing an important role.

[Chamorro] Solidarity, love, and goodwill are the most important things we need.

[Reporter] In other words, you are not seeking money, but support?

[Chamorro] Of course. [end recording]

Afterward, First Lady Blanca Rodriguez de Perez welcomed Violeta Chamorro to La Casona, the presidential residence. They discussed the possibility of opening institutions such as the Children's Foundation and (Fundación) in Nicaragua. The Venezuelan first lady showed great interest in this subject.

Purge in AD Party Continues; Perez Strengthened

PAZMINA/TV Pura: AFP in Spanish 10/1 GMT

21 Sep 89

[Article by Humberto Marquez, "Purge in the Venezuelan Government Party"]

[Text] Caracas, 21 Sep (AFP)—Political analysts in Caracas agree that the purge of former Democratic Action (AD) President Jaime Lusinchi's (1984-89) aides continues this week in this Venezuelan Social Christian party.

One of Lusinchi's main aides, Senator Jose Angel Ciliberto, was charged with corruption by the AD Ethics Court and expelled from the party on 20 September. Ciliberto was interior minister during Lusinchi's administration and also one of the 33 members of AD's powerful National Executive Commission (CEN).

The former powerful private secretary of the former president and his present companion, Blanca Huaner, was also expelled from the party for similar charges, 3 weeks ago.

Two CEN members who are also deputies, Alberto Finol and Luis Guervara, as well as former Finance Minister Hector Hurtado and other Lusinchi aides, are also being tried by the AD Ethics Court at present. The political media asserts that they will also be expelled from AD soon.

During the past six months, opposition deputies have leveled corruption charges against these same officials and these cases are still pending as the Judicial Branch has still not issued any sentences in any of the cases involved. However, AD, pressured by these accusations, formed the Ethics Court in August.

In addition to the moral responsibility, the sanctions issued by the AD Ethics Court, damage Lusinchi's image, corner his supporters, and leave the road open for Perez to win the struggle for AD's "historic leadership."

Perez, Lusinchi, and the rest of the AD leaders deny that such a struggle for leadership exists and reject anything that even mentions that there are different inclinations within the party. However, political analysts and the media presents evidence every day of the undeclared struggle for the control of the party.

After former President Romulo Betancourt died in 1981, the struggle to inherit his undisputed leadership has always been in the background of all the incidents that occur within AD. Betancourt was a founder of AD (1941), and its top political leader for decades.

Experts in local politics say that the inclinations within AD are based on groups and a product of personal preferences, rather than on ideologies. AD experienced three schisms by leftists during the 60's.

For example, Lusinchi, who headed the Perez supporters in the 70's against other trends within the party, headed an alliance in the 80's that kept Perez in the shadow until 1986. The (Andean) Mountaineer Perez said at that time: "It rains but it will stop."

AD chose its presidential candidate for the present administration in 1987, and Perez defeated Lusinchi's favorite Congressional President Octavio Lopez. After that, Perez dismantled the key pieces of the Lusinchi group, one after another.

In this struggle, the then Minister Ciliberto was one of the Lusinchi group's battering rams against Perez. Today's Caracas newspapers mention that the AD Ethics Court's sentence was an implicit "settling of accounts."

Absurdly, the act of corruption for which the former minister was expelled from the party was a fraudulent purchase of 65 vehicles in 1988. These vehicles were used by AD members in the political campaign that ended with Perez' victory over the Christian Democratic candidate Eduardo Fernandez in the past December elections.

Ciliberto bought the vehicles with secret funds for top security items that had been assigned to the Interior Ministry. The vehicles were given to AD members, but also to relatives and friends of the elite in power.

In addition to lessening internal opposition within the party, Perez and his followers are promoting a party "renovation" that will enable them to defend the unpopular economic adjustment program that was agreed to

With the International Monetary Fund, President Perez started the program implementation in February.

Also, by gaining control of party leadership, Perez has more responsibility for AD's turnover at the upcoming regional and municipal elections in December, and according to recent polls, the Social Democrats' victory in several regions appears to be in danger.

Perez has said "my ambition is history" and the road is now clear. However, the Venezuelan president needs a new electoral victory to support both his economic policy and the AD's purge of Lusinchi followers.

Guyana

President Hoyte on Counting Election Ballots

EL 2/090/20000 *Bridgetown C.A.N.A. in English*
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[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, September 23 (ANA)—President Desmond Hoyte has rejected opposition demands that the ballots at national elections should be counted at the place of poll. Giving the keynote address to the Third Conference of Mayors, which got underway here Friday, Hoyte said making such a demand was "useless."

He dealt extensively with the political situation in the country and made references to the current and past strikes in the sugar industry which were accompanied by fires. He told the gathering that during the strike in April and May, not only were standing cane destroyed, but bridges and other [word indistinct] estates were burnt and there was also arson against schools and economic entities, as well as coercion and threatening of workers who wished to work.

"That is why it is useless for anybody to come to me and say, 'Count votes at polling places,'" he said. "We know that because of the ethnic and other social structure of our society arising from historical causes, it is easy to ethnic enclaves to terrorize people." Hoyte told the large gathering at the city hall.

He added, "It happens every time there is a strike on the sugar estates. It is happening now. So, where is the freedom to exercise one's conscience, if people have to be afraid lest they be beaten or their houses burnt down on a suspicion that they might have voted one way or another?"

The call for the ballots to be counted at the place of poll is one of the local opposition's main demands for electoral reform here. The government has been insisting

that because of the nature of the elections, it would be a "logistical nightmare" to count the votes at the place of poll. The government also contends that it was because of the difficulties involved that, even under British rule here, the votes were not counted at the place of poll.

In Guyana, elections are based on a system of proportional representation and not on the first-past-the-post system. But for two decades, opposition parties have consistently accused the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) of rigging the elections.

Measures Taken To Prevent Further Blackouts

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(By Courtney Gibson)

[Excerpt] Georgetown, Guyana, Sept. 21 (ANA)—Residents of Georgetown and its environs can expect to be supplied with about 24 hours of electricity within every 48 hours from the Guyana Electricity Corporation (GEC), the corporation's acting public relations officer, Cornel Baird, said on Thursday. Baird told C.A.N.A. that the supply will be distributed on a rotation basis to consumers in the 27 districts linked to the Demerara Inter-Connected System. He said that in most cases, within every 48 hours, consumers are likely to receive electricity in two periods—for 16 hours on one occasion and eight hours on the other.

While this planned supply of electricity will be more akin to what has become the normal dosage for most consumers here in recent months, it represents a significant improvement when compared with the situation a week ago when most citizens were without electricity for two consecutive days.

While the current demand by consumers linked to the Demerara Inter-Connected System is for about 38 megawatts (MW), late last week the GEC was forced to limp along with only six megawatts available for distribution.

Baird reported, however, that there has been some improvement this week and the corporation is now distributing between 18 and 20 MW to its consumers—nine from its main facility at Kingston in the city, between five and seven from Guyminc, the local bauxite company, and four from the controversial power barge, one of whose four engines exploded and caught fire a week ago.

He said one of the four units on the barge was put back into service earlier in the week while a second unit was restored to service on Wednesday. [passage omitted]